

THE NONCONFORMIST.

"The dissidence of dissent and the protestantism of the protestant religion."

No. 231.—VOL. V.

LONDON: WEDNESDAY, JULY 2, 1845.

PRICE 6d.

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Ecclesiastical Affairs.

VOWS MADE IN TROUBLE.

FEW men pass through the world without being driven at times to good resolutions. There are moments in the experience of most, when ordinary life appears but as the dream of vanity—and when sudden calamity, it may be, or some cause equally powerful, compels men to look their cherished maxims and habitual motives in the face. In the presence of appalling danger, the mind often exercises, to a preternatural extent, the faculty of intuition—sees, rather than reasons—pierces with lightning glance through the thickest mists of sophistry in which it had been until then enshrouded—and instinctively resolves questions of moral obligation, which, when at ease, it could never draw beyond the precincts of doubt. Then it is that we commonly hear men responding to those solicitations which once misled them, in a similar strain to that of Henry V., when, after his elevation to royalty, he rebuked Falstaff:—

"Presume not that I am the thing I was;
For heaven doth know, so shall the world perceive,
That I have turn'd away my former self."

If, now, we could recall from that oblivion to which we fear, they have already been consigned, all those altered views of things which, as by a magician's wand, the Maynooth Endowment bill conjured up before Dissenters—the vivid apprehensions of danger, the clear recognitions of duty, unavailing regrets, frank confessions, high resolves—if we could summon these back from silent obscurity, and group and array them in one picture—if, in a word, we could embody in language the purest and noblest states of mind and feeling excited in the nonconforming world by that insidious measure—we should do a service to truth, more timely, perhaps, and, consequently, more important, than any other lying within our power to render. We wish it were possible, by the use of some spell, to hold up to the gaze of every professed Dissenter, what he was, what he thought, and what he determined, or inclined to determine, when the fear of Maynooth and its "hereafter" was strongest upon him. What has become of the vows so prodigally made in the hour of trouble? Have they melted away with the excitement which occasioned them? Are the good resolutions of Protestant Nonconformists like those letters written in sympathetic ink, which nothing but fire can render legible? We shall see.

We do not err, we believe, in describing the short period to which we specially advert, as one of *conviction*. If any were inclined to deny it, we might ask him to account, not merely for the open confessions of past negligence, but for those less formal, more delicate, and, therefore, surer indications of change for the better, which characterised the whole course of the agitation. The substitution of apology for the timid, in the place of sneers at the forward—the silence of official conservatism where we had been wont to hear loud outcries against the rashness of young zealots—the air of respect with which not a few influential gentlemen carried themselves towards the consistent activity which they had once deplored as calamitous—the apparent simplicity with which they urged the necessity of beginning to do that which other men had already begun to do in the face of their opposition—these were infallible signs of self-dissatisfaction in a review of the past, less obtrusive, perhaps, but not less trustworthy, than explicit avowals. No

man of observation could mistake their general purport. They were silent but significant illustrations of a prevailing consciousness that the systematic suppression of great truths, however ingeniously defended in times of profound quiet, is looked upon from positions of real danger with a feeling very near akin to shame. They showed a disposition on the part of those in whose conduct they were seen, to sidle by imperceptible movements into a less questionable line of policy. They proclaimed the unsuitableness of once snug quarters when stormy weather had set in—and, like the helter-skelter distribution of chattels on a first-floor after a sudden flood, they told unpleasant tales of the inconvenience which had been felt on the basement of their once-belauded edifice. Now, we put it in all seriousness to Dissenters, whether it becomes them, after such experience, deliberately to return to the same system of apathy, and to settle down once more as the practical abettors of inaction in regard to their professed principles. Is all the teaching of recent events to be thrown away upon them? Has Providence reproved them in vain? Do they now repent of their repentance, and grow ashamed of their shame? If not, it is surely time that their convictions ripened into wholesome fruit.

It has been demonstrated, by incontestable and painful evidence, that the legislature is not likely to be again seared from the pursuit of its own cherished objects, by a spasmodic effort of Protestant Nonconformity. That wand they have snapped in twain, and is useless now for the future. The sudden noise which has more than once startled them is at length taken for what it is worth, and no more. It is believed to be a harmless explosion. Shrewd observers of all political parties contrast it with the general stillness which precedes and follows it, and draw the conclusion that nothing formidable is to be apprehended from men who one day breathe out condemnation upon a government assailing their principles, and the next, throw every discouragement in the path of those of their own body, who are actively attempting to assert them. Sir R. Peel has acquired experience enough, in his ever-shifting course, to measure at a glance the strength of the parties with which he has to deal. He knows that mere clamour may be safely set at nought—especially, when it proceeds from those who mean nothing beyond it. When he sees Dissenters at work—as earnest in diffusing free religion as they are in promoting free-trade—labouring not only in times of feverish excitement, but at all times, irrespectively of external pressure—rallying round and supporting such organisations as are constructed with an express view of making known their principles—attending to the registration of voters—putting forward their own candidates, and voting for them regardless of consequences—he, and the aristocracy whom he represents, will cease to make light of Dissenting agitations. Until then, he will give no heed to the loudest execrations of himself and his policy.

The members of the legislature who pushed forward the Maynooth Endowment bill, in opposition to the wishes of their constituencies, justified themselves by the plea—indignantly repudiated at the time—that the excitement was only temporary. Doubtless, many of them will keep a sharp lookout for tokens of the fulfilment of their prophecy. What will they see in refutation of the assertions they hazarded with so much confidence? First steps resolutely taken, to put an end to all state-endowments of religion? The ranks of the British Anti-state-church Association filling up with unexampled rapidity? Embryo schemes for putting our principles more extensively in contact with the minds of our people? The cautious but steady formation of electoral committees? None of these things. No! but they will observe those men in office amongst us who attempted to lower the value of the fairest and fullest expression of the views of Nonconformists, in reference to this measure, still holding office; and their public boast that, in virtue of their position, they might not improperly assume to represent the views and feelings of Dissenters more correctly than any formal convocations of the body, remaining practically uncontradicted. And, if they note these things, as unquestionably they do, what inference will they draw from them? Why, this—that all the good resolutions of Dissenters passed during the heat of the Anti-Maynooth agitation, represented rather the force of external pressure, than

the vitality of an abiding principle; and that they were no more to be relied upon than vows made in trouble.

BRITISH ANTI-STATE-CHURCH ASSOCIATION.

On Tuesday evening, the 10th ult., in the British schoolroom, Stony Stratford, a public meeting was held in behalf of the above association. The chair was taken by Mr Moss, the minister. Mr W. Forster, Independent minister, the deputation from London, addressed the meeting at great length, on the importance of Dissenters acting out their principles, and of seeking their thorough ascendancy in this country. Messrs E. L. Forster and Killingworth also addressed the meeting. A resolution was carried, expressive of thanks to Mr W. Forster for his address, and of approbation of the principles of the association. On Wednesday evening a lecture was delivered by Mr W. Forster, of Highgate, in the Baptist church, Buckingham, Mr Carryer, the minister, in the chair. For a town situated as this is, the meeting was quite as good as could have been expected. The lecture was listened to with deep attention. A vote was unanimously passed of thanks to the deputation, and expressive also of a determination to support the society. If the Dissenters in all our towns were as zealous and liberal in the maintenance of the association as in these two towns, it would have no difficulty in raising more than £3,000 annually. On the recommendation of the lecturer, arrangements are about to be made by neighbouring ministers, for the delivery of courses of lectures on Dissent, in order to enlighten the people on its principles, and to organise them in connexion with the Anti-state-church Association.

PORT MADOC.—A meeting was held at the Independent chapel, Port Madoc, on Tuesday, the 24th ult., to receive Mr Carlile, Independent minister, of London, as a deputation from the British Anti-state-church Association. Mr C. Jones, minister, of Dolgelley, editor of the *Disgedydd*, presided. Mr Carlile, in a very clear and forcible manner, explained the views of the Association, and the importance of the cause. He was warmly received by the assembly. The meeting was addressed by Mr S. Roberts, A.M., of Llanbrynmair, editor of the *Croniel*, and by Mr W. Ambrose, minister of the place. A registrar was appointed for the locality. It is expected that Mr Carlile's visit will be attended with much good in infusing a spirit of active co-operation into the friends of religious liberty in North Wales.

DOLGELLEY, MERIONETHSHIRE.—Mr James Carlile visited this town on Wednesday, the 25th ult., as a deputation from the British Anti-state-church Association. A meeting was held at the Independent chapel, which was crowded in every part. Mr C. Jones, the respected minister of the chapel, was called to preside. Mr Carlile was introduced to the meeting, and delivered a dispassionate and effective speech, exhibiting the evil of state endowments of religious creeds, and the necessity of combined efforts by friends of religious freedom to secure a separation of church and state by fair and scriptural means. The meeting was addressed in the Welsh language by Mr W. Ambrose, of Port Madoc, and Mr S. Roberts, M.A., of Llanbrynmair. The curate of the parish had announced his intention of meeting Mr Carlile, to discuss before the meeting the subject of state churches. A respectable deputation, headed by L. Pugh, Esq., waited upon him, when he declined every proposal laid before him, much to the disappointment of the Dissenters of Dolgelley. It appeared that the rumour originated in his having told some of the ladies of his congregation that he would attend and demolish every argument Mr Carlile could advance. The rumour produced two favourable results—it created an intense interest in the subject, and convinced the good people of Dolgelley that state churches were indefensible. Two registrars were appointed for the town.

CHURCH RATE CONTESTS.

CHURCH RATES AT STEPNEY.—A spirited contest for a church rate of 3d. in the pound for the repair and enlargement of the ancient parish church of St Dunstan, Stepney, has taken place, and terminated on Friday. At four o'clock yesterday the poll finally closed, when the numbers were—for the rate, 840; against the rate, 991; majority, 151. The rate was consequently lost.

ST PAUL'S, COVENT GARDEN.—On Friday night a meeting of the rate payers of the parish of St Paul's, Covent Garden, was held in the vestry-room of the church—Mr James Tapster, churchwarden, in the chair—to make a church-rate to pay off £297 15s. 10d., a balance due for the repairs of the church. Mr Thomas B. Simpson, and Mr Olley, moved and seconded the adoption of a twopenny rate to pay the balance. Mr Walker opposed the rate, and moved the adjournment of the question to that day six months. Mr Jolley seconded the amendment. On a

division the rate was negated by an overwhelming majority. Mr Colville proposed, and Mr Walker most willingly approved of, a collection being made to pay the £297 15s. 10d. Several other parishioners also acquiesced in the proposition.

CHURCH RATE CONTEST AT KEIGHLEY.—A meeting was held on Thursday morning, in the vestry, and by adjournment from thence in the church yard, to take into consideration the propriety of voting a rate for the current expenses of the church; the rector in the chair. Mr Stewart, Baptist minister, and other gentlemen opposed the rate, and the meeting terminated by a show of hands, which greatly preponderated in favour of the anti-church-rate party, not more than some twenty or thirty hands being held up for the rate. The voting commenced immediately, the pro-rate party having demanded a poll, and at two o'clock the numbers were, against the rate 104, for the rate, 56: majority against the rate 48. A contest is also expected in the parish of Kildwick, for the like purpose; a meeting would be held on Friday, as a preliminary step. No other result is anticipated than what has attended these annual votings, viz.:—the defeat of the pro-church party with yearly increasing majorities.

CHURCH RATES IN SOUTH SHIELDS.—At the police office, on Monday, Mr Williamson, Mr Robert Imery, Mr James Young, Mr James, Mr Day, &c., appeared by summons, before the sitting magistrates, charged with non-payment of church rates. Mr Paget Thompson, solicitor, opposed the proceedings, but without effect. All were ordered to pay, with costs, with the exception of Messrs James and Day, whose cases were adjourned. A public meeting was held in the Town hall, on Thursday evening, "to adopt the necessary measures to protect conscientious Christians from the disgraceful, persecuting, and injurious proceedings" of the churchwardens, Messrs Robert Dawson, R. H. Bell, George Thompson, and William Trotter, "and to petition parliament for the abolition of church rates, and for full religious liberty." The attendance (a correspondent states) was numerous and respectable. Mr W. Carr was called to the chair. Resolutions were adopted asserting the duty of every man to support his own form of worship; condemnatory of church rates and all other ecclesiastical impositions; pledging the meeting to hold no communion with the Church of England, by burials, baptisms, marriages, or otherwise; and agreeing to petition parliament for the separation of church and state. The movers and seconders were the Revds T. M'Creath, H. Lawson, and J. Sneath, and Messrs James Mather, W. Robertson, J. Strachan, J. Young, and J. R. Young. All the resolutions were carried with the greatest unanimity. The chairman observed at the conclusion, that a Religious Freedom Society would in all probability be formed in the town, and the excitement caused by the conduct of the church party thus be made to assume a definite and permanently beneficial form. The secretary of the Newcastle and Gateshead Religious Freedom Society was upon the platform, and, at the close of the meeting, distributed a number of its publications amongst those present.—*Gateshead Observer.*

WISBECH.—On Friday afternoon, the 20th ult., a vestry meeting took place in this place, for the purpose of considering the best plan of raising a sum of money for defraying the expenses and keeping the church in necessary repair and clean condition. After a warm discussion between the Dissenters and the church party, a proposition was made and seconded that a rate should be levied: this was objected to by a strong body of the dissenting connexion, who advocated a voluntary contribution. A show of hands was taken, when a very large majority of the meeting appeared against the rate. A poll was then demanded, which was kept open until eight o'clock that evening, and from ten to four on Saturday and Monday; the following is the result:—For the rate, 435; against the rate, 123: majority 312.—We understand that the Dissenters have taken an objection to the rate as being illegal, through an informality in the notice calling the meeting.—*Stamford Mercury.*

The opponents of church rates in Clitheroe, Lancashire, have succeeded in rejecting a rate, by a majority of 26 to 15. The church party declined going to a poll.

VOLUNTARY RATE.—We announced, a few weeks ago, that Mr Chaffer, the churchwarden of Burnley, had resolved upon liquidating the debts contracted for various expenses connected with the church, by a voluntary subscription, rather than have recourse to a compulsory rate; and we are glad to state that he has well nigh succeeded. In addition to the donations we then particularised, we have now to state that several other handsome sums have been contributed both by churchmen, Dissenters, and Wesleyans.—*Liverpool Mercury.*

THE MODE IN WHICH CHURCH RATE DISTRAINTS ARE MANAGED.—A short time since, the goods of Mr James Conder, grocer, of Ipswich, were distrained for a rate of £1 2s. 8d. and expenses, making altogether £2 4s. 2d. To defray these charges, 136 pounds of loaf sugar were taken from Mr Conder's shop, worth 7d. a pound. The sugar was taken by the constable to Mr Berryman, who appraised the goods at about £3, or about 31d. per pound, and bought them himself. Mr Conder was told that the sum realised was the exact amount of the rate and costs. We learn from the *Suffolk Chronicle* that, on Monday week, Mr Conder brought the matter before the magistrates at the Town hall. It came out, in the course of the investigation, that there had been two distraints on Mr Conder's goods, by the constable, and that the last distrait was made at the instigation of Mr Berryman. The Mayor declared the whole "a scandalous transaction," adding—

"Mr Conder, we have done all we can do. When it is our duty to order a distress of this or any other kind, it is our desire that the law shall be properly followed. I hope the exposure which has taken place will be sufficient to prevent a repetition of such transactions." Mr Conder—"I had no other wish in coming here, than to know how these goods had really been disposed of, and to satisfy the magistrates how transactions of this nature are conducted." The Mayor—"We are not satisfied; but, on the contrary, we are exceedingly dissatisfied."

CHURCH RATES.—**BURY ST EDMUNDS.**—The churchwardens of St James's parish summoned a vestry meeting for the purpose of making a church-rate, at half-past nine o'clock, on Thursday the 26th instant, the parishioners being apprised by the "no-rate party," assembled in large numbers at the vestry to oppose the rate. The churchwardens proposed that a rate of sixpence in the pound be levied for the purpose of meeting the current expenses of the year. Mr Thomas Ridley, a Dissenter, moved an amendment, that the question of a church rate be considered that day twelve months, which was carried at the vestry by a large majority. By mutual consent, they adjourned to the Corn Exchange for polling, which was kept up with much spirit until 4 o'clock on Friday, when the churchwardens declared the poll closed, the numbers being, for the amendment, 279; for the rate, 230; leaving a majority of 49 against the rate. The first church rate that was ever successfully opposed in this stronghold of churchism.

THE SOCIETY OF FRIENDS.—In the annual letter of this body just published, it is stated that, during the past year, the sufferings of their members, in consequence of ecclesiastical claims, including the costs of distraint, amounted to about ten thousand two hundred pounds. The grounds on which these exactions have been resisted, and the opposition of the society to all state interference with religion, are thus clearly and cogently expressed in the annual circular:—

Our testimony against these impositions rests upon a deep religious conviction that the things which are imposed, are contrary to the Divine will, as laid down in the New Testament; and that a compliance with human authority, in the payment of demands, for the support of those religious forms and practices from which we conscientiously dissent, is a virtual recognition and acknowledgment of them.

We feel truly grateful for that large measure of religious liberty, which, after a protracted period of cruel sufferings, has long been afforded to our society. We love our country, and we are, in the largest sense of the term, a Protestant church. But, we believe, that, in continuing to usurp authority over conscience in the exercise of the civil power, by maintaining established forms of worship, and by obliging men to contribute to those which they conscientiously disapprove, one of the worst features of the apostasy is retained. We think, that with a right sense of the inestimable value of religious truth, no truly conscientious man could join in supporting rites and practices which he believes to be contrary to the law of Christ, and to the spirit of his religion; and still less could he impose the maintenance of his own religious opinions and practices upon those who differ from him. True religion undoubtedly leads us to do to others as we would that they should do to us. The establishment of one system of faith and observance as the religion of the state, and the provision by the civil power for all the various sects which may divide the people, appears to us alike unwarranted—the former, as an assumption of exclusive rule; the latter, as treating the great questions of religion as matters of indifference; and both, as infringing the precept of the Redeemer, "Freely ye have received, freely give."

EXCLUSION OF DISSENTING MINISTERS, &c., FROM THE LEEDS WORKHOUSE.—For several years past the various Methodist, Independent, and Baptist ministers, and town missionaries of Leeds, have been in the habit of giving their zealous and gratuitous attendance at the Leeds workhouse, to visit and address the paupers on the sabbath, and the Sunday school teachers, who have taught the children in the workhouse. According to a regular plan the ministers preached every Tuesday evening, visited the wards once in the course of the week, and attended whenever the spiritual exigencies of the inmates specially required their presence. The Poor law guardians have, however, thought fit unceremoniously to dispense with their services. They have committed the religious instruction of the poor in our workhouse to the absolute and sole control of Dr Hook, the vicar, a course opposed alike to the wishes of the inmates of the house, to the usage that has prevailed (we believe immemorially) in the town, and to the feelings of all the inhabitants except the highest of the High church. Dr Hook offered his services as chaplain on the express condition that he should have the exclusive control of all religious ministrations in the workhouse. The guardians therefore well understood what they were about. When the matter was under discussion, the consequences of the measure were clearly stated to them. Those consequences have now been realised. It will still be in the power of the ministers and town missionaries to visit individual paupers in the workhouse on being expressly sent for. Neither the guardians nor Dr Hook have the power to prevent this, otherwise they would doubtless exercise that power. But all opportunity of addressing the inmates when assembled together, or of conducting divine worship with the little congregation, is at an end! The first sermon preached to the workhouse poor by Dr Hook was on baptismal regeneration! And one dose of that doctrine so peculiarly adapted to the state of the paupers, most of whom are aged and many of whom have been immoral persons—not being thought sufficient, Mr Nunn followed a few days after with a second sermon on the same topic!

THE TRUSTEES OF ORCHARD-STREET CHAPEL v. THE SEAT-HOLDERS.—On Tuesday last, at the Court of Requests, Mr Isaac Beaumont, druggist, of the

Hillgate, and Mr Thos. Brunt, were summoned by certain parties named as the trustees of Orchard-street Chapel, for arrears of seat rent said to be due and owing to them. The case of Mr Beaumont was first taken, and he was summoned for £1 1s., two quarters' pew rent. Mr William Heginbotham, who said he appeared on behalf of himself and co-trustees, handed in the conveyance deeds of the chapel; and afterwards proceeded to state, that they, as trustees, were liable to the original debt upon the building, having given a note of hand for the amount as well as for the interest of the debt, the ground rent, and all incidental expenses. All bills were made out in their names, and they were liable for every debt accruing in respect of the premises. Owing to some misunderstanding between the trustees and the minister and "people," the minister recommended the seat-holders to withhold the payment of their seat-rents from the trustees; and they, following that advice, had refused to meet the just liabilities upon the chapel, and had therefore rendered it necessary to institute the present proceeding against them. Their duty as trustees evidently was to let the pews and receive the rents, as specified in the deed (which clause he read), and of course no other person had that right.—John Allcock, the chapel-keeper, was then examined at length, and the result of his long examination was, that he had demanded and received, as pew rent, money from Mr Beaumont, in the name of the deacons, but not of the trustees.—Mr Henry Coppock (who presided) said that was not proof sufficient to show the defendant's liability; he was summoned by and in the name of trustees, but by the trustees' own witness the demand had been made in the name of the deacons. No connexion between the deacons and trustees had been proved, and of course the defendant could not be made liable to parties whom he did not acknowledge. If either the trustees or deacons had proceeded and applied for the demand in their own name, then either or both would have been in court; as it was, if the chasm he referred to—the want of identity between the deacons and trustees—could not be supplied, the case must fall to the ground. Mr Coppock added, that as this was a question of right, a court of requests was not the place to try it; a process in chancery to eject Mr Beaumont from his holding, would have been the most legitimate course. At the same time he thought it most improper, as appeared by the renewal deed of 1842, and to which impropriety the present proceedings were in part referable, that parties should be placed in the trust who had no interest whatever in common with the chapel; it was a practice utterly at variance with the principle of dissent; and God forbid that he should ever allow it in connexion with the place to which he himself belonged. The point raised in objection by Mr Coppock, involved in a good deal of legal technicality, was argued at length; and it was further proved by the trustees, that, subsequent to Allcock's demand, a notice to pay his pew-rent to the trustees only had been served on Mr Beaumont, as well as a demand made on their behalf; as, however, the difference between the trustees and the minister and deacons was referred to in terms, in this notice, as the reason for putting the powers granted by the deed, in force, proving, still, the absence of any identity of interest, or unity of purpose, between them, the objection was held to be fatal, and the plaintiffs, as the trustees, were nonsuited.—The case against Mr Brunt was dismissed.—*Manchester Guardian.* [In reference to this extraordinary case a correspondent states that "the suit originated in an attempt on the part of new trustees to substitute for the voluntary system that of *ex-officio* and irresponsible management." He says, "It will be supposed by persons at a distance that the congregation has been wrought up to a high state of excitement, and involved for a long time in great contention; but the contrary is the fact. For nearly three years, by various annoyances, such as sending notices, turning off the gas, &c., the trustees have attempted to coerce the people into submission to their self-assumed authority. But they have borne every aggression however, patiently and almost in silence. Few meetings have been held on the subject, and, when necessarily called for the direction of the deacons, have been distinguished for harmony, moderation, and unanimity, the most remarkable and encouraging. The hour for hearing the case was appointed by the members of the church, as one for special prayer. The trial did not proceed to the stage for the admission of evidence for the defendant; otherwise the statements of Mr H. would have been disproved by the plainest documentary testimony, and it would have been shown that since the new trustees came into office the original debt on the chapel has been discharged, and, though much injured by the arbitrary proceedings of the trust body, the treasurer appointed by the congregation has promptly paid every account as it has been presented. In answer to a question to the mayor, who was on the bench, Mr Heginbotham stated that the office of deacon in an Independent church was "purely spiritual." He was twice reminded by the president of the court that he was upon oath. It could have been proved that the minister was from home at the time when the people resolved not to "withhold" the payment of seat-rents from the trustees, but not to *begin* to take seats from them or to transfer to them the management of their affairs. During twelve years' pastorate the minister never attended a meeting relative to the secular business of the place, and every step in the passive resistance of the congregation has been spontaneous and apart from any suggestion of his, though the best feeling exists between minister, deacons, and people, and they are still willing to meet all the just liabilities. Their patience and spirit of unity has been severely tested, but with the happiest results. Immediately

on the receipt of the summons, Mr Beaumont addressed a note to each of the trustees (excepting one, who is in an asylum), requesting to know whether they sanctioned the suit, or were willing to disclaim it, and to prevent its being carried on. Since the decision, several of the trustees have been anxious to disown all participation in the disgraceful affair, but only one of them saved his honour by a reply to Mr Beaumont—J. S. Jackson, Esq., a trustee residing in the Isle of Man, sent the following communication:—

"Chesham, Bucks, June 29, 1845.

"SIR—Your favour of the 21st inst. has only just reached my hands, having traveled to the island, and thence after me to this place. In reply, I beg to assure you that I did not even know of my name being used as a claimant of seat rent from you. I have written to Mr Atkinson to protest against any such unwarrantable use of it in future; for no such proceeding can have my sanction or countenance.

"I am very sorry for any annoyance to which you may have been subjected, and hope this explanation will exonerate me from censure in your mind.

"I am, sir, yours very respectfully,

"Mr Isaac Beaumont. JOHN S. JACKSON."

RE-ORGANISATION OF DISSENTERS.—The recent enactment in favour of Maynooth college, and the threatened endowment of the Roman Catholic church in Ireland, appear likely to be the means of again rousing the voluntary Dissenters of Scotland from the apathy into which they had fallen, and of leading to vigorous efforts to promote the cause of religious liberty. Our advertising columns announce a great demonstration on the evening of Wednesday next; and the names of the speakers on the occasion show that not only are the chiefs of the party to appear, but the gathering is to be a Scottish and not a local one. The meeting, we understand, is not to have reference so much to the recent endowment of Maynooth, except in illustrating the folly and incongruity of the endowment principle under a new phase, as to declare the sentiments of the voluntaries in opposition to all civil establishments of religion, and to adopt measures for resisting attempts to encroach on their civil and religious rights. Simultaneously with this movement, it has been resolved to resuscitate the Scottish Central Board of Dissenters; and a general meeting, with this object in view, is to be held in Rose Street church, on Tuesday evening, to consider such proposals as may be submitted to them for rendering the board more efficient both in constitution and direction. This board has, in times past, done good service to the voluntary cause, and we can conceive of no more suitable organ for vindicating and asserting the rights of Dissenters. If supported with liberality and zeal, and conducted with judgment and resolution, much may be expected from the promptitude and effect with which such a board would be enabled to oppose every pernicious measure and to promote every beneficial one. Perhaps the policy was sound, and the feeling unquestionably was good, which induced Dissenters to cease from the voluntary warfare for some time previous to the disruption, and since; but the period seems now to have arrived when they must once more rouse themselves to action. They are recommencing with vigour; let them prosecute the cause with perseverance, and success will attend them. Free churchmen cannot, of course, openly join them, but as little will they oppose them; and very many of those who have left the establishment, that they might enjoy their liberty and preserve their consciences void of offence, will, in their heart, rejoice at efforts made to weaken and remove all state churches, whether Presbyterian, Episcopalian, or Roman Catholic.—*Scotsman*.

MAYNOOTH.—The following memorials to the Queen, against the Maynooth College bill, have been forwarded to the Marquis of Breadalbane for presentation:—1st. From the conference held at Crosby hall. 2nd. From the Dissenting ministers of South Wales. 3rd. From the congregation of Mansion house chapel, Camberwell; and also from Chard, Ilminster, and Uxbridge.

SECESSION OF ANOTHER TRACTARIAN TO POPERY.—Mr J. M. Capes, of St John the Baptist church, Eastover, Bridgewater, has formally announced his secession from the established church. He has resigned his license into the hands of the bishop, and given up all claim to the benefits of the endowments of St John's church.

THE DUKE OF WELLINGTON UPON DUELING.—The Duke of Wellington has addressed the following note to one of the honorary secretaries of the Association for the discouragement of dueling, in reply to the circular lately issued by the committee, suggesting a measure for deciding disputes on points of honour by reference to arbitration:—

London, June 20.

Field Marshal the Duke of Wellington presents his compliments to Captain Hope.

The duke having been the person who, in the performance of his duty, recommended to her Majesty the issue of the rules referred to in Captain Hope's letter, his desire to put an end to the practice of deciding disputes by fighting duels cannot be doubted.

Every gentleman can form as correct a judgment as the duke can upon the benefit likely to be derived from an association such as is described.

Captain Hope, R.N.

ACCELERATION OF THE NORTHERN MAILS.—A general acceleration of the mails over the whole northern district will take place to-morrow (yesterday). On the 6th of July some further alteration to the same purpose will come into operation. In reply to our inquiries, we find that none of the proposed alterations will interfere with the existing arrangements as to the arrivals and departures at the Liverpool post-office.

Correspondence.

MR TIDMAN AND HIS EXPLANATORY LETTER.

To the Editor of the Nonconformist.

SIR—Allow me to correct an error of yours, as put forth in an article in the last number of your paper, entitled "The Secretary's Humble Pie." I do not write to comment on the title of that essay, nor to remark on the spirit it breathes towards one of the esteemed secretaries of the London Missionary Society, nor even to object to sundry epithets which are therein freely applied to some of your Christian brethren, but simply to deny the assumption on which the force of the whole article turns. In referring to Mr Tidman's letter to the *Patriot*, which, perhaps, it would only have been fair for you to have reprinted in connexion with your comments upon it, you describe your impression of its design, and add—"Something akin to this we imagine to have been the purpose of the directors in insisting upon the publication of some such explanatory note, and in ordering that it should appear, not in their name, but in that of the offending secretary." This opinion or conjecture is wholly without foundation. Every one of the directors, I believe, regard Mr Tidman as a most invaluable officer of the society, and not as an "offending secretary." They could have felt no displeasure with his expressions of opinion to Sir Culling Smith, in reference to the Crosby-hall Conference, as these were given in his capacity of a friend, and not as the secretary of the Missionary Society. They neither "insisted" nor "ordered" that such a note should be written; and, had the question been mooted at the board, they would doubtless have rejected such a proposition, as being alike unworthy of themselves and of their secretary, to which gentleman the society is under far deeper obligation, in my judgment, than the tenor of your article implies.

You will see by this communication that Mr Tidman is not placed in the humiliating position you "imagine;" and believing, as I do, that your love of justice will induce you to allow your readers to know that you were in error in this particular, I ask for the insertion of this note in your next number.

As one of the directors of the Missionary Society, I take leave to deprecate any attempt to make that institution responsible for the individual opinions of its officers, on questions which now divide the Christian public; because that Society was formed with the simple design of spreading the gospel in heathen lands, without any agreement on questions of ecclesiastical polity, because it now embraces in its constituency Christians of various denominations, amongst whom a diversity of opinion obtains in reference to these subjects.

I remain, sir, yours respectfully,

GEORGE SMITH.

East India road, June 30th, 1845.

[We readily give insertion to this letter, although the time at which it reaches us forbids our first putting it into the hands of our informant. The passage in question was no conjecture of our own—it was based upon information given us by a respectable authority as even Mr Smith. There may, nevertheless, be some mistake—possibly the matter was not mooted at the Board—perhaps it never came to that pass. We shall wait until we hear again, believing that our informant was substantially correct in his statement. As to the rest, it does not affect our article. Mr Tidman was consulted as "secretary of the London Missionary Society"—possibly, were all explained, it might be found that the parties of whom he sought information were all of them directors of the missions. At all events, it will not do for the officers of that institution to fling stones at a great movement, and then to pretend that they did it in their private capacity. There is more Jesuitry hidden under the pretence than is becoming in gentlemen who talk with the unction of Mr Smith.]

FORMS OF PRAYER.

To the Editor of the Nonconformist.

SIR—My long-promised letter I now have a moment to prepare. Its delay must be referred to the fact, that, having in hand the establishment of Dumpton Hall Educational Society, I determined to avoid all possible polemical engagements. And I thank God, he has so far crowned my exertions with success, that we shall this month commence with thirty of the sons of Baptist and Independent ministers. It is the earnest prayer of the committee, that the steady support of the Christian public may give permanency to the Institution.

Sir, I think for myself, and therefore I am a Dissenter. Had I thought as my grandfathers and grandmothers, or as my godfather and godmother, or had I not thought at all, I should have been an Episcopalian. Moreover, I am a thorough and uncompromising Dissenter, if I have rightly understood what Dissent is. I take it to mean a determined stand against the unscriptural alliance of church and state, which I believe to be pregnant with evils as any Nonconformist can possibly represent. I take it to mean, that, not an earthly sovereign, but that Christ himself, is the only head of the church; that neither Sir Robert Peel nor Sir James Graham is to frame any religious creed; nor am I to be riveted to the prayers and observances of the dead, whether pious or impious.

And, because of these principles, I have foregone the associations of some of my kindred, and endured the shyness and separation of my immediate circle. In other words, could I have countenanced the polluting secularism of a state church, so far as natural feelings and worldly considerations are concerned, I had been far differently situated.

But, alas! too many Dissenters seem to think, if we may judge by their practical narrow-mindedness and bigotry, that Dissent not only involves nonconformity to church and state, but that it also includes conformity to certain rules and regulations which their pious ancestors in former centuries adopted. And hence they introduce the very principle among themselves, which, in the Episcopalian, they impugn. And though theoretical subscription to the Thirty-nine Articles of the church of England is out of the question, practical subscription to their customs is indispensable!

Truth must be admitted by every sensible man to be changeless. It cannot be the slave of times and seasons,

the plaything of climates, or the creature of circumstances. It cannot be Protestantism in England, and Romanism in Ireland. But I apprehend the mode of stating truth, and the means of extending truth, it may be discreet to vary. And if this had not been conceded, all our missionary societies, our town missions, our sabbath schools, and many other important organisations, had been stifled by the clamorous cries of an unthinking multitude, "We have no such custom."

Moreover, the hymns of Dr Watts had never been sung in our assemblies, and Baptists must have continued to think, the way to keep Christ's ordinances in the church, was to keep Christ's flock, of other sects, out of the church. Oh, what innovators are men who dare to think for themselves! what alarming inquiries they originate! Such as, What will be done next? How far is it from Rome? And what fearful adjectives they suggest, such as "fickle," "novel," "ominous!" And what a wonderful chemistry they bring about, until an organ, or a gown, or a combination of sound words, are turned into Popery. By such it must be deemed highly impolitic for Sir Culling Smith, or any thorough Protestant, to visit the Vatican, or look at the pope, lest they should be changed into the same image.

I have been apt to think, sir, that to be a Dissenter, involved a great principle. That it was no such nugatory question, as whether there should be gown, steeple, and organ, or not; but whether the kingdom of Christ were of this world or not. If it were merely the former, I would rather be a churchman, and escape the obloquy of contending about what even the Bishop of Exeter acknowledges to be trifles. If the latter, I would contend for the spirituality of Christ's kingdom, against all the decrees of earthly dignitaries, to the close of my life.

I dissent, because I believe state legislation in the church of Christ to be unscriptural and mischievous, and, being a Dissenter, I feel that I breathe in an element of liberty; that I am not chained to pestilential antiquities, but am left to act for myself in all that Holy Scripture leaves undefined—responsible to no human tribunal, to no ecclesiastical synod, to no Dissenting category, but only to Christ; having dominion over the faith of none, nor allowing any to have dominion over mine; willing and thankful to hear and to learn, but unwilling to have any statute-book beyond the New Testament.

Now, either the mode of conducting public worship is defined in the New Testament, or it is not. I suppose no one will venture to affirm the former; therefore, if the right of personal judgment be allowed to every minister in common with every Christian, so long as things are conducted decently and in order, and there is no error or irreverence, the very element of Dissent, while it allows the expression of an opinion, disdains all that is dictatorial and vituperative. When will Dissenters live out the dignity of their principles, and cease to hanker after uniformity in things external and indifferent, which, generally speaking, is the way to be a century behind the times in which we live.

He is a Baptist; ergo, he must not wear a gown! He is a Baptist; ergo, he must not be mindful of symmetry and architecture! He is a Baptist; ergo, he must on no occasion adopt a form of prayer! Were ever conclusions more utopian? Were ever premises and conclusions less congruous? In the name of philology, what can the immersion of believers, in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and the Holy Ghost, have to do with the vestment of a minister? Or, how can the question of a written or an extempore prayer be implicated in a man's views, either of baptism, or of church and state? Be it replied, "We have no such custom, therefore it is an insufferable intrusion." Such a reply might be reasonable from the precincts of Canterbury Cathedral, but it is as far from the professed principles of dissent, as are parochial sacraments from the laws of Christ.

A shuffling policy is detestable; but, to be as wise in our generation as the children of this world, is only to escape the censure of our Divine Master. To become wicked to the wicked, is profane; but to become weak to the weak, is apostolical. Peter is to be withstood to the face when he is blameworthy; but, be it remembered, it was by the same apostle who had Timothy circumcised! To move with the times in things indifferent, sacrificing our own preferences to popular prejudices, that we may more extensively disseminate the truth, can never be apostasy. It may be apostasy from the usages of the sect, but it is only in keeping with the spirit and precepts of Christ.

Forms of prayer from the pens of a Fletcher, a Morison, and others, have been countenanced and commended by almost all the eminent Dissenting ministers of our day; men who pray with the spirit and with the understanding also. Invariably to have them, would be monotonous; but to have a diversified form of service on a sabbath afternoon, if we be not slaves to system, must be refreshing. There is no reason, as Bishop Hall observes, why, if there be both, they should "jostle together." At all events, the spiritual success in the conversion of sinners, through continuous years, both at Tottenham Court and Surrey chapels, is enough to testify that an occasional form of prayer, if it be orthodox, can be no impediment to the welfare of the church.

Every man of experience will admit, that three services exactly similar in the form of arrangement on the sabbath, are not expedient, on many accounts, either for minister or congregation. It was under this conviction that I varied the afternoon service, introducing a short form of prayer constructed from the Prayer Book of the established church. The most pleasing feature, to me, in this service has been, to hear the voices of the people reading alternate verses with myself. It keeps up general attention; it furnishes the mind with the Word of God. It is very desirable for those who cannot read; more especially, as, in our morning and evening services, more than a psalm and a chapter are seldom included.

Nevertheless, "lest we should offend"—lest I should in any way damage the interests of a catholic and promising institution, which bids fair, in course of time, to have a hundred sons of ministers of various denominations, preparing within its precincts for industry in the world, and, if it please God, usefulness in the church—lest the contention should be too fierce between what is lawful and what is expedient (although not directly or indirectly solicited to do so from any quarter), henceforth the form of prayer will be altogether discontinued, and the hour in the afternoon employed in the more copious and alternate reading of the word of God, including a hymn or two, and a concluding prayer.

Thus, by giving the congregation something to do—employing their lips as well as their ears—the service

division the rate was negatived by an overwhelming majority. Mr Colville proposed, and Mr Walker most willingly approved of, a collection being made to pay the £297 15s. 10d. Several other parishioners also acquiesced in the proposition.

CHURCH RATE CONTEST AT KEIGHLEY.—A meeting was held on Thursday morning, in the vestry, and by adjournment from thence in the church yard, to take into consideration the propriety of voting a rate for the current expenses of the church; the rector in the chair. Mr Stewart, Baptist minister, and other gentlemen opposed the rate, and the meeting terminated by a show of hands, which greatly preponderated in favour of the anti-church-rate party, not more than some twenty or thirty hands being held up for the rate. The voting commenced immediately, the pro-rate party having demanded a poll, and at two o'clock the numbers were, against the rate 104, for the rate, 56: majority against the rate 48. A contest is also expected in the parish of Kildwick, for the like purpose; a meeting would be held on Friday, as a preliminary step. No other result is anticipated than what has attended these annual votings, viz.:—the defeat of the pro-church party with yearly increasing majorities.

CHURCH RATES IN SOUTH SHIELDS.—At the police office, on Monday, Mr Williamson, Mr Robert Imery, Mr James Young, Mr James, Mr Day, &c., appeared by summons, before the sitting magistrates, charged with non-payment of church rates. Mr Paget Thompson, solicitor, opposed the proceedings, but without effect. All were ordered to pay, with costs, with the exception of Messrs James and Day, whose cases were adjourned. A public meeting was held in the Town hall, on Thursday evening, "to adopt the necessary measures to protect conscientious Christians from the disgraceful, persecuting, and injurious proceedings" of the churchwardens, Messrs Robert Dawson, R. H. Bell, George Thompson, and William Trotter, "and to petition parliament for the abolition of church rates, and for full religious liberty." The attendance (a correspondent states) was numerous and respectable. Mr W. Carr was called to the chair. Resolutions were adopted asserting the duty of every man to support his own form of worship; condemnatory of church rates and all other ecclesiastical impositions; pledging the meeting to hold no communion with the Church of England, by burials, baptisms, marriages, or otherwise; and agreeing to petition parliament for the separation of church and state. The movers and seconders were the Revs T. McCreath, H. Lawson, and J. Sneath, and Messrs James Mather, W. Robertson, J. Strachan, J. Young, and J. R. Young. All the resolutions were carried with the greatest unanimity. The chairman observed at the conclusion, that a Religious Freedom Society would in all probability be formed in the town, and the excitement caused by the conduct of the church party thus be made to assume a definite and permanently beneficial form. The secretary of the Newcastle and Gateshead Religious Freedom Society was upon the platform, and, at the close of the meeting, distributed a number of its publications amongst those present.—*Gateshead Observer.*

WISBECH.—On Friday afternoon, the 20th ult., a vestry meeting took place in this place, for the purpose of considering the best plan of raising a sum of money for defraying the expenses and keeping the church in necessary repair and clean condition. After a warm discussion between the Dissenters and the church party, a proposition was made and seconded that a rate should be levied: this was objected to by a strong body of the dissenting connexion, who advocated a voluntary contribution. A show of hands was taken, when a very large majority of the meeting appeared against the rate. A poll was then demanded, which was kept open until eight o'clock that evening, and from ten to four on Saturday and Monday; the following is the result:—For the rate, 435; against the rate, 123: majority 312.—We understand that the Dissenters have taken an objection to the rate as being illegal, through an informality in the notice calling the meeting.—*Stamford Mercury.*

The opponents of church rates in Clitheroe, Lancashire, have succeeded in rejecting a rate, by a majority of 26 to 15. The church party declined going to a poll.

VOLUNTARY RATE.—We announced, a few weeks ago, that Mr Chaffer, the churchwarden of Burnley, had resolved upon liquidating the debts contracted for various expenses connected with the church, by a voluntary subscription, rather than have recourse to a compulsory rate; and we are glad to state that he has well nigh succeeded. In addition to the donations we then particularised, we have now to state that several other handsome sums have been contributed both by churchmen, Dissenters, and Wesleyans.—*Liverpool Mercury.*

THE MODE IN WHICH CHURCH RATE DISTRAINTS ARE MANAGED.—A short time since, the goods of Mr James Conder, grocer, of Ipswich, were distrained for a rate of £1 2s. 8d. and expenses, making altogether £2 4s. 2d. To defray these charges, 136 pounds of loaf sugar were taken from Mr Conder's shop, worth 7d. a pound. The sugar was taken by the constable to Mr Berryman, who appraised the goods at about £3, or about 31d. per pound, and bought them himself. Mr Conder was told that the sum realised was the exact amount of the rate and costs. We learn from the *Suffolk Chronicle* that, on Monday week, Mr Conder brought the matter before the magistrates at the Town hall. It came out, in the course of the investigation, that there had been two distraints on Mr Conder's goods, by the constable, and that the last distrait was made at the instigation of Mr Berryman. The Mayor declared the whole "a scandalous transaction," adding—

"Mr Conder, we have done all we can do. When it is our duty to order a distress of this or any other kind, it is our desire that the law shall be properly followed. I hope the exposure which has taken place will be sufficient to prevent a repetition of such transactions." Mr Conder—"I had no other wish in coming here, than to know how these goods had really been disposed of, and to satisfy the magistrates how transactions of this nature are conducted." The Mayor—"We are not satisfied; but, on the contrary, we are exceedingly dissatisfied."

CHURCH RATES.—BURY ST EDMUNDS.—The churchwardens of St James's parish summoned a vestry meeting for the purpose of making a church-rate, at half-past nine o'clock, on Thursday the 26th instant, the parishioners being apprised by the "no-rate party," assembled in large numbers at the vestry to oppose the rate. The churchwardens proposed that a rate of sixpence in the pound be levied for the purpose of meeting the current expenses of the year. Mr Thomas Ridley, a Dissenter, moved an amendment, that the question of a church rate be considered that day twelve months, which was carried at the vestry by a large majority. By mutual consent, they adjourned to the Corn Exchange for polling, which was kept up with much spirit until 4 o'clock on Friday, when the churchwardens declared the poll closed, the numbers being, for the amendment, 279; for the rate, 230; leaving a majority of 49 against the rate. The first church rate that was ever successfully opposed in this stronghold of churchism.

THE SOCIETY OF FRIENDS.—In the annual letter of this body just published, it is stated that, during the past year, the sufferings of their members, in consequence of ecclesiastical claims, including the costs of distraint, amounted to about ten thousand two hundred pounds. The grounds on which these exactions have been resisted, and the opposition of the society to all state interference with religion, are thus clearly and cogently expressed in the annual circular:—

Our testimony against these impositions rests upon a deep religious conviction that the things which are imposed, are contrary to the Divine will, as laid down in the New Testament; and that a compliance with human authority, in the payment of demands, for the support of those religious forms and practices from which we conscientiously dissent, is a virtual recognition and acknowledgment of them.

We feel truly grateful for that large measure of religious liberty, which, after a protracted period of cruel sufferings, has long been afforded to our society. We love our country, and we are, in the largest sense of the term, a Protestant church. But, we believe, that, in continuing to usurp authority over conscience in the exercise of the civil power, by maintaining established forms of worship, and by obliging men to contribute to those which they conscientiously disapprove, one of the worst features of the apostasy is retained. We think, that with a right sense of the inestimable value of religious truth, no truly conscientious man could join in supporting rites and practices which he believes to be contrary to the law of Christ, and to the spirit of his religion; and still less could he impose the maintenance of his own religious opinions and practices upon those who differ from him. True religion undoubtedly leads us to do to others as we would that they should do to us. The establishment of one system of faith and observance as the religion of the state, and the provision by the civil power for all the various sects which may divide the people, appears to us alike unwarranted—the former, as an assumption of exclusive rule; the latter, as treating the great questions of religion as matters of indifference; and both, as infringing the precept of the Redeemer, "Freely ye have received, freely give."

EXCLUSION OF DISSENTING MINISTERS, &c., FROM THE LEEDS WORKHOUSE.—For several years past the various Methodist, Independent, and Baptist ministers, and town missionaries of Leeds, have been in the habit of giving their zealous and gratuitous attendance at the Leeds workhouse, to visit and address the paupers on the sabbath, and the Sunday school teachers, who have taught the children in the workhouse. According to a regular plan the ministers preached every Tuesday evening, visited the wards once in the course of the week, and attended whenever the spiritual exigencies of the inmates specially required their presence. The Poor law guardians have, however, thought fit unceremoniously to disperse with their services. They have committed the religious instruction of the poor in our workhouse to the absolute and sole control of Dr Hook, the vicar, a course opposed alike to the wishes of the inmates of the house, to the usage that has prevailed (we believe immemorially) in the town, and to the feelings of all the inhabitants except the highest of the High church. Dr Hook offered his services as chaplain on the express condition that he should have the exclusive control of all religious ministrations in the workhouse. The guardians therefore well understood what they were about. When the matter was under discussion, the consequences of the measure were clearly stated to them. Those consequences have now been realised. It will still be in the power of the ministers and town missionaries to visit individual paupers in the workhouse on being expressly sent for. Neither the guardians nor Dr Hook have the power to prevent this, otherwise they would doubtless exercise that power. But all opportunity of addressing the inmates when assembled together, or of conducting divine worship with the little congregation, is at an end! The first sermon preached to the workhouse poor by Dr Hook was on *baptismal regeneration*! And one dose of that doctrine so peculiarly adapted to the state of the paupers, most of whom are aged and many of whom have been immoral persons—not being thought sufficient, Mr Nunns followed a few days after with a second sermon on the same topic!

THE TRUSTEES OF ORCHARD-STREET CHAPEL v. THE SEAT-HOLDERS.—On Tuesday last, at the Court of Requests, Mr Isaac Beaumont, druggist, of the

Hillgate, and Mr Thos. Brunt, were summoned by certain parties named as the trustees of Orchard-street Chapel, for arrears of seat rent said to be due and owing to them. The case of Mr Beaumont was first taken, and he was summoned for £1 1s., two quarters' pew rent. Mr William Heginbotham, who said he appeared on behalf of himself and co-trustees, handed in the conveyance deeds of the chapel; and afterwards proceeded to state, that they, as trustees, were liable to the original debt upon the building, having given a note of hand for the amount as well as for the interest of the debt, the ground rent, and all incidental expenses. All bills were made out in their names, and they were liable for every debt accruing in respect of the premises. Owing to some misunderstanding between the trustees and the minister and "people," the minister recommended the seat-holders to withhold the payment of their seat-rents from the trustees; and they, following that advice, had refused to meet the just liabilities upon the chapel, and had therefore rendered it necessary to institute the present proceeding against them. Their duty as trustees evidently was to let the pews and receive the rents, as specified in the deed (which clause he read), and of course no other person had that right.—John Allcock, the chapel-keeper, was then examined at length, and the result of his long examination was, that he had demanded and received, as pew rent, money from Mr Beaumont, in the name of the deacons, but not of the trustees.—Mr Henry Coppock (who presided) said that was not proof sufficient to show the defendant's liability; he was summoned by and in the name of trustees, but by the trustees' own witness the demand had been made in the name of the deacons. No connexion between the deacons and trustees had been proved, and of course the defendant could not be made liable to parties whom he did not acknowledge. If either the trustees or deacons had proceeded and applied for the demand in their own name, then either or both would have been in court; as it was, if the chasm he referred to—the want of identity between the deacons and trustees—could not be supplied, the case must fall to the ground. Mr Coppock added, that as this was a question of right, a court of requests was not the place to try it; a process in chancery to eject Mr Beaumont from his holding, would have been the most legitimate course. At the same time he thought it most improper, as appeared by the renewal deed of 1842, and to which impropriety the present proceedings were in part referable, that parties should be placed in the trust who had no interest whatever in common with the chapel; it was a practice utterly at variance with the principle of dissent; and God forbid that he should ever allow it in connexion with the place to which he himself belonged. The point raised in objection by Mr Coppock, involved in a good deal of legal technicality, was argued at length; and it was further proved by the trustees, that, subsequent to Allcock's demand, a notice to pay his pew-rent to the trustees only had been served on Mr Beaumont, as well as a demand made on their behalf; as, however, the difference between the trustees and the minister and deacons was referred to in terms, in this notice, as the reason for putting the powers granted by the deed, in force, proving, still, the absence of any identity of interest, or unity of purpose, between them, the objection was held to be fatal, and the plaintiffs, as the trustees, were nonsuited.—The case against Mr Brunt was dismissed.—*Manchester Guardian.* [In reference to this extraordinary case a correspondent states that "the suit originated in an attempt on the part of new trustees to substitute for the voluntary system that of *ex-officio* and irresponsible management." He says, "It will be supposed by persons at a distance that the congregation has been wrought up to a high state of excitement, and involved for a long time in great contention; but the contrary is the fact. For nearly three years, by various annoyances, such as sending notices, turning off the gas, &c., the trustees have attempted to coerce the people into submission to their self-assumed authority. But they have borne every aggression however, patiently and almost in silence. Few meetings have been held on the subject, and, when necessarily called for the direction of the deacons, have been distinguished for harmony, moderation, and unanimity, the most remarkable and encouraging. The hour for hearing the case was appointed by the members of the church, as one for special prayer. The trial did not proceed to the stage for the admission of evidence for the defendant; otherwise the statements of Mr H. would have been disproved by the plainest documentary testimony, and it would have been shown that since the new trustees came into office the original debt on the chapel has been discharged, and, though much injured by the arbitrary proceedings of the trust body, the treasurer appointed by the congregation has promptly paid every account as it has been presented. In answer to a question to the mayor, who was on the bench, Mr Heginbotham stated that the office of deacon in an independent church was "purely spiritual." He was twice reminded by the president of the court that he was upon oath. It could have been proved that the minister was from home at the time when the people resolved not to "withhold" the payment of seat-rents from the trustees, but not to be in to take seats from them or to transfer to them the management of their affairs. During twelve years' pastorate the minister never attended a meeting relative to the secular business of the place, and every step in the passive resistance of the congregation has been spontaneous and apart from any suggestion of his, though the best feeling exists between minister, deacons, and people, and they are still willing to meet all the just liabilities. Their patience and spirit of unity has been severely tested, but with the happiest results. Immediately

on the receipt of the summons, Mr Beaumont addressed a note to each of the trustees (excepting one, who is in an asylum), requesting to know whether they sanctioned the suit, or were willing to disclaim it, and to prevent its being carried on. Since the decision, several of the trustees have been anxious to disown all participation in the disgraceful affair, but only one of them saved his honour by a reply to Mr Beaumont—J. S. Jackson, Esq., a trustee residing in the Isle of Man, sent the following communication:—

Chesham, Bucks, June 29, 1845.

"SIR—Your favour of the 21st inst. has only just reached my hands, having traveled to the island, and thence after me to this place. In reply, I beg to assure you that I did not even know of my name being used as a claimant of seat rent from you. I have written to Mr Atkinson to protest against any such unwarrantable use of it in future; for no such proceeding can have my sanction or countenance.

"I am very sorry for any annoyance to which you may have been subjected, and hope this explanation will exonerate me from censure in your mind.

"I am, sir, yours very respectfully.

"Mr Isaac Beaumont. JOHN S. JACKSON."

RE-ORGANISATION OF DISSENTERS.—The recent enactment in favour of Maynooth college, and the threatened endowment of the Roman Catholic church in Ireland, appear likely to be the means of again rousing the voluntary Dissenters of Scotland from the apathy into which they had fallen, and of leading to vigorous efforts to promote the cause of religious liberty. Our advertising columns announce a great demonstration on the evening of Wednesday next; and the names of the speakers on the occasion show that not only are the chiefs of the party to appear, but the gathering is to be a Scottish and not a local one. The meeting, we understand, is not to have reference so much to the recent endowment of Maynooth, except in illustrating the folly and incongruity of the endowment principle under a new phase, as to declare the sentiments of the volunteers in opposition to all civil establishments of religion, and to adopt measures for resisting attempts to encroach on their civil and religious rights. Simultaneously with this movement, it has been resolved to resuscitate the Scottish Central Board of Dissenters; and a general meeting, with this object in view, is to be held in Rose Street church, on Tuesday evening, to consider such proposals as may be submitted to them for rendering the board more efficient both in constitution and direction. This board has, in times past, done good service to the voluntary cause, and we can conceive of no more suitable organ for vindicating and asserting the rights of Dissenters. If supported with liberality and zeal, and conducted with judgment and resolution, much may be expected from the promptitude and effect with which such a board would be enabled to oppose every pernicious measure and to promote every beneficial one. Perhaps the policy was sound, and the feeling unquestionably was good, which induced Dissenters to cease from the voluntary warfare for some time previous to the disruption, and since; but the period seems now to have arrived when they must once more rouse themselves to action. They are recommencing with vigour; let them prosecute the cause with perseverance, and success will attend them. Free churchmen cannot, of course, openly join them, but as little will they oppose them; and very many of those who have left the establishment, that they might enjoy their liberty and preserve their consciences void of offence, will, in their heart, rejoice at efforts made to weaken and remove all state churches, whether Presbyterian, Episcopalian, or Roman Catholic.—*Scotsman.*

MAYNOOTH.—The following memorials to the Queen, against the Maynooth College bill, have been forwarded to the Marquis of Breadalbane for presentation:—1st. From the conference held at Crosby hall. 2nd. From the dissenting ministers of South Wales. 3rd. From the congregation of Mansion house chapel, Camberwell; and also from Chard, Ilminster, and Uxbridge.

SECESSION OF ANOTHER TRACTARIAN TO POPERY.—Mr J. M. Capes, of St John the Baptist church, Eastover, Bridgewater, has formally announced his secession from the established church. He has resigned his license into the hands of the bishop, and given up all claim to the benefits of the endowments of St John's church.

THE DUKE OF WELLINGTON UPON DUELING.—The Duke of Wellington has addressed the following note to one of the honorary secretaries of the Association for the discouragement of dueling, in reply to the circular lately issued by the committee, suggesting a measure for deciding disputes on points of honour by reference to arbitration:—

London, June 20.

Field Marshal the Duke of Wellington presents his compliments to Captain Hope.

The duke having been the person who, in the performance of his duty, recommended to her Majesty the issue of the rules referred to in Captain Hope's letter, his desire to put an end to the practice of deciding disputes by fighting duels cannot be doubted.

Every gentleman can form a correct judgment as the duke can upon the benefit likely to be derived from an association such as is described.

Captain Hope, R.N.

ACCELERATION OF THE NORTHERN MAILS.—A general acceleration of the mails over the whole northern district will take place to-morrow (yesterday). On the 6th of July some further alteration to the same purpose will come into operation. In reply to our inquiries, we find that none of the proposed alterations will interfere with the existing arrangements as to the arrivals and departures at the Liverpool post-office.

Correspondence.

MR TIDMAN AND HIS EXPLANATORY LETTER.

To the Editor of the Nonconformist.

SIR—Allow me to correct an error of yours, as put forth in an article in the last number of your paper, entitled "The Secretary's Humble Pie." I do not write to comment on the title of that essay, nor to remark on the spirit it breathes towards one of the esteemed secretaries of the London Missionary Society, nor even to object to sundry epithets which are therein freely applied to some of your Christian brethren, but simply to deny the assumption on which the force of the whole article turns. In referring to Mr Tidman's letter to the *Patriot*, which, perhaps, it would only have been fair for you to have reprinted in connexion with your comments upon it, you describe your impression of its design, and add—"Something akin to this we imagine to have been the purpose of the directors in insisting upon the publication of some such explanatory note, and in ordering that it should appear, not in their name, but in that of the offending secretary." This opinion or conjecture is wholly without foundation. Every one of the directors, I believe, regard Mr Tidman as a most invaluable officer of the society, and not as an "offending secretary." They could have felt no displeasure with his expressions of opinion to Sir Culling Smith, in reference to the Crosby-hall Conference, as these were given in his capacity of a friend, and not as the secretary of the Missionary Society. They neither "insisted" nor "ordered" that such a note should be written; and, had the question been mooted at the board, they would doubtless have rejected such a proposition, as being alike unworthy of themselves and of their secretary, to which gentleman the society is under far deeper obligation, in my judgment, than the tenor of your article implies.

You will see by this communication that Mr Tidman is not placed in the humiliating position you "imagine;" and believing, as I do, that your love of justice will induce you to allow your readers to know that you were in error in this particular, I ask for the insertion of this note in your next number.

As one of the directors of the Missionary Society, I take leave to deprecate any attempt to make that institution responsible for the individual opinions of its officers, on questions which now divide the Christian public; because that Society was formed with the simple design of spreading the gospel in heathen lands, without any agreement on questions of ecclesiastical polity, because it now embraces in its constituency Christians of various denominations, amongst whom a diversity of opinion obtains in reference to these subjects.

I remain, sir, yours respectfully,

GEORGE SMITH.

East India road, June 30th, 1845.

[We readily give insertion to this letter, although the time at which it reaches us forbids our first putting it into the hands of our informant. The passage in question was no conjecture of our own—it was based upon information given us by as respectable an authority as even Mr Smith. There may, nevertheless, be some mistake—possibly the matter was not mooted at the Board—perhaps it never came to that pass. We shall wait until we hear again, believing that our informant was substantially correct in his statement. As to the rest, it does not affect our article. Mr Tidman was consulted as "secretary of the London Missionary Society"—possibly, were all explained, it might be found that the parties of whom he sought information were all of them directors of the missions. At all events, it will not do for the officers of that institution to fling stones at a great movement, and then to pretend that they did it in their private capacity. There is more Jesuitry hidden under the pretence than is becoming in gentlemen who talk with the unction of Mr Smith.]

FORMS OF PRAYER.

To the Editor of the Nonconformist.

SIR—My long-promised letter I now have a moment to prepare. Its delay must be referred to the fact, that, having in hand the establishment of Dumpton Hall Educational Society, I determined to avoid all possible polemical engagements. And I thank God, he has so far crowned my exertions with success, that we shall this month commence with thirty of the sons of Baptist and Independent ministers. It is the earnest prayer of the committee, that the steady support of the Christian public may give permanency to the Institution.

Sir, I think for myself, and therefore I am a Dissenter. Had I thought as my grandfathers and grandmothers, or as my godfather and godmother, or had I not thought at all, I should have been an Episcopalian. Moreover, I am a thorough and uncompromising Dissenter, if I have rightly understood what Dissent is. I take it to mean a determined stand against the unscripural alliance of church and state, which I believe to be as pregnant with evils as any Nonconformist can possibly represent. I take it to mean, that, not an earthly sovereign, but that Christ himself, is the only head of the church; that neither Sir Robert Peel nor Sir James Graham is to frame any religious creed; nor am I to be riveted to the prayers and observances of the dead, whether pious or impious.

And, because of these principles, I have foregone the associations of some of my kindred, and endured the shyness and separation of my immediate circle. In other words, could I have countenanced the polluting secularity of a state church, so far as natural feelings and worldly considerations are concerned, I had been far differently situated.

But, alas! too many Dissenters seem to think, if we may judge by their practical narrow-mindedness and bigotry, that Dissent not only involves nonconformity to church and state, but that it also includes conformity to certain rules and regulations which their pious ancestors in former centuries adopted. And hence they introduce the very principle among themselves, which, in the Episcopalian, they impugn. And though theoretical subscription to the Thirty-nine Articles of the church of England is out of the question, practical subscription to their customs is indispensable!

Truth must be admitted by every sensible man to be changeless. It cannot be the slave of times and seasons,

the plaything of climates, or the creature of circumstances. It cannot be Protestantism in England, and Romanism in Ireland. But I apprehend the mode of stating truth, and the means of extending truth, it may be discreet to vary. And if this had not been conceded, all our missionary societies, our town missions, our sabbath schools, and many other important organisations, had been stifled by the clamorous cries of an unthinking multitude, "We have no such custom."

Moreover, the hymns of Dr Watts had never been sung in our assemblies, and Baptists must have continued to think, the way to keep Christ's ordinances in the church, was to keep Christ's flock, of other sects, out of the church. Oh, what innovators are men who dare to think for themselves! what alarming inquiries they originate! Such as, What will be done next? How far is it from Rome? And what fearful adjectives they suggest, such as "fickle," "novel," "ominous!" And what a wonderful chemistry they bring about, until an organ, or a gown, or a combination of sound words, are turned into Popery. By such it must be deemed highly impolitic for Sir Culling Smith, or any thorough Protestant, to visit the Vatican, or look at the pope, lest they should be changed into the same image.

I have been apt to think, sir, that to be a Dissenter, involved a great principle. That it was no such nugatory question, as whether there should be gown, stole, and organ, or not; but whether the kingdom of Christ were of this world or not. If it were merely the former, I would rather be a churchman, and escape the obloquy of contending about what even the Bishop of Exeter acknowledges to be trifles. If the latter, I would contend for the spirituality of Christ's kingdom, against all the decrees of earthly dignitaries, to the close of my life.

I dissent, because I believe state legislation in the church of Christ to be unscripural and mischievous, and, being a Dissenter, I feel that I breathe in an element of liberty; that I am not chained to pestilential antiquities, but am left to act for myself in all that Holy Scripture leaves undefined—responsible to no human tribunal, to no ecclesiastical synod, to no Dissenting category, but only to Christ; having dominion over the faith of none, nor allowing any to have dominion over mine; willing and thankful to hear and to learn, but unwilling to have any statute-book beyond the New Testament.

Now, either the mode of conducting public worship is defined in the New Testament, or it is not. I suppose no one will venture to affirm the former; therefore, if the right of personal judgment be allowed to every minister in common with every Christian, so long as things are conducted decently and in order, and there is no error or irreverence, the very element of Dissent, while it allows the expression of an opinion, disdains all that is dictatorial and vituperative. When will Dissenters live out the dignity of their principles, and cease to hanker after uniformity in things external and indifferent, which, generally speaking, is the way to be a century behind the times in which we live.

He is a Baptist; *ergo*, he must not wear a gown! He is a Baptist; *ergo*, he must not be mindful of symmetry and architecture! He is a Baptist; *ergo*, he must on no occasion adopt a form of prayer! Were ever conclusions more utopian? Were ever premises and conclusions less congruous? In the name of philology, what can the immersion of believers, in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and the Holy Ghost, have to do with the vestment of a minister? Or, how can the question of a written or an extempore prayer be implicated in a man's views, either of baptism, or of church and state? Be it replied, "We have no such custom, therefore it is an insufferable intrusion." Such a reply might be reasonable from the precincts of Canterbury Cathedral, but it is as far from the professed principles of dissent, as are parochial sacraments from the laws of Christ.

A shuffling policy is detestable; but, to be as wise in our generation as the children of this world, is only to escape the censure of our Divine Master. To become wicked to the wicked, is profane; but to become weak to the weak, is apostolical. Peter is to be withstood to the face when he is blameworthy; but, be it remembered, it was by the same apostle who had Timothy circumcised! To move with the times in things indifferent, sacrificing our own preferences to popular prejudices, that we may more extensively disseminate the truth, can never be apostasy. It may be apostasy from the usages of the sect, but it is only in keeping with the spirit and precepts of Christ.

Forms of prayer from the pens of a Fletcher, a Morison, and others, have been countenanced and commended by almost all the eminent Dissenting ministers of our day; men who pray with the spirit and with the understanding also. Invariably to have them, would be monotonous; but to have a diversified form of service on a sabbath afternoon, if we be not slaves to system, must be refreshing. There is no reason, as Bishop Hall observes, why, if there be both, they should "jostle together." At all events, the spiritual success in the conversion of sinners, through continuous years, both at Tottenham Court and Surrey chapels, is enough to testify that an occasional form of prayer, if it be orthodox, can be no impediment to the welfare of the church.

Every man of experience will admit, that three services exactly similar in the form of arrangement on the sabbath, are not expedient, on many accounts, either for minister or congregation. It was under this conviction that I varied the afternoon service, introducing a short form of prayer constructed from the Prayer Book of the established church. The most pleasing feature, to me, in this service has been, to hear the voices of the people reading alternate verses with myself. It keeps up general attention; it furnishes the mind with the Word of God. It is very desirable for those who cannot read; more especially, as, in our morning and evening services, more than a psalm and a chapter are seldom included.

Nevertheless, "lest we should offend"—lest I should in any way damage the interests of a catholic and promising institution, which bids fair, in course of time, to have a hundred sons of ministers of various denominations, preparing within its precincts for industry in the world, and, if it please God, usefulness in the church—lest the contention should be too fierce between what is lawful and what is expedient (although not directly or indirectly solicited to do so from any quarter), henceforth the form of prayer will be altogether discontinued, and the hour in the afternoon employed in the more copious and alternate reading of the word of God, including a hymn or two, and a concluding prayer.

Thus, by giving the congregation something to do—employing their lips as well as their ears—the service

will be lively, and the holy scriptures will occupy—what, in my opinion, they ought—one of the most prominent places in the formulæ of our sabbath-day worship.

Perhaps I may be permitted, shortly, to write you concerning the lamentable sabbath-breaking of members of churches and Christian professors between the hours of one and half-past six o'clock on that day. The evil is great and growing, and ought to be uprooted.

I am, sir, yours faithfully,
Ramsgate, June 25, 1844. MORTLOCK DANIELL.

THE MARRIAGE CONTRACT.

To the Editor of the Nonconformist.

DEAR SIR—With your permission, I should like to say a word or two to your readers on the marriage contract, in reference to the ceremonies required to render it valid. The subject illustrates the influence on a people of state-churchism. Dissenters charge the English Protestant church with being Popish in some of its doctrines and ceremonies. Dissenters are not wholly free from the same taint. In both there is a conformity that has no eyes, or that shuts them fast, instead of a conscience that scrutinises, and will have nothing but convictions as springs of action.

In the beginning all things were simple—simple in fact, and simple in appearance. Men saw things as they were. They did not look through other men's eyes. They did not think with other men's minds. Objects were not encumbered with the coverings and colourings which the ages throw over them. There were no disguises that required unusual effort and penetration to see through them. There was no standard of authority for human faith—no stereotype creed—no statutory supplements to God's truth—no antiquity to claim the homage due to truth alone. Civilisation, in its progress, introduces complexity. We find it in commercial regulations, in laws, in social habits, in the mechanism and modes of worship of religious societies. Truth is simple as ever; all things are simple as ever—in fact, but not in appearance; and in proportion to the complexity is the difficulty of discerning the true nature of things. The superficial observer may be an easy Conformist; but the man who is only satisfied with insight, and is brave to set out his principles, must often of necessity be an utter Nonconformist, and his conduct can only be appreciated by those who have his insight.

All this is obviously applicable to the subject in hand. Nothing could be more simple in itself, or in the mode of entering into it, than was at first the marriage contract; and nothing, perhaps, has been more involved in the complexities resulting from conventional life. I do not mean here to quarrel about the iced cakes, the glazed cards, and silver cords, the ghostly garb, and the golden ring, or other the decorative appurtenances of modern marriages. As to them, I say, *Parvis parva placent*. I do not mean here to quarrel with the details of the service honoured by a legal establishment, nor with the details of the different modes adopted by the officials of the Dissenting community. The former may be solemnities: the latter may be beautiful simplicities. My quarrel is with the admixture of priestism in the execution of the contract. I deny the reasonableness of the interference of ministers of religion with the matter—I deny the religiousness of their interference—I deny their right to interfere. There was neither reason, nor religion, nor right, on the side of this interference when it originated; and, if there were not then, there can never have been since—there cannot be now; for the perpetuation of a wrong has no magic to make it a right.

There are "good easy" people who really dare not look beyond the existing order of things for their notions of Truth and Right: who really dare not contradict the hackneyed axiom, "Whatever is, is right." They never inquire why such and such things are. They just do as they see others do, "asking no questions for conscience's sake." They worship and serve Custom, the "idol of idiot worshippers." They know that priests marry people. They think people are not married unless the priest has married them. They think nothing can equal the beauty of the established ritual. Certainly some are beginning to believe that Dissenting ministers can tie the knot safely; and a few begin to believe that it can be tied well and wisely without any aid of the minister of religion. This is a great advance. It is progress in the right direction. But at present it is very slow and very partial. No wonder that it is hard work to break the bondage which centuries have confirmed. No wonder that the religious feelings of men cling so tenaciously to what so long has been their object. No wonder that the eyes so long blindfolded should acquire their full power of sight so slowly.

Now, at the door of the state-church lies the guilt of this bondage, this blindfolding. Because there has been such a thing as an establishment of religion, there has been such a mingling and confounding of the ecclesiastical domination with the civil actions and relationships of men. We trace back in history the course of priestly power in the particular matter we are considering, till we see its origin in the wily heart of a despotic pope. To get power, to get money, to extend a kingdom of this world, were the motives which led to the invention of this new instrument of spiritual tyranny. Nobody, before innocent, dreamed that marriage could only be valid when the priest joined the hands. Nobody would dream so now, had not a state-priesthood perpetuated the notion for the sake of—we need not say what. But it so falls out that the notion has a firm hold on the minds of the multitude; and Dissenters have not yet escaped its grasp. Some triumph, as if emancipated, because the power is shared by their own religious officers. But if they still deem priestly hands essential, they have still about them the chain which the artful pope forged. Before they are free, they must come to perceive, with much more distinctness than they do yet, the true nature of the gospel ministry, and its complete isolation from everything that implies the possession of secular power, or a right of interference by authority in men's civil duties and relations. And they must understand better the simplicity of marriage. It is no sacrament in their creed, though they act as if it were. Now that the law allows this contract to be entered into in a simple form before a civil officer, it seems to me that every one who still goes to the religious teacher in preference to the civil officer, thereby assents to and sanctions one branch of a spiritual despotism that once kept the world at its feet.

With most hearty congratulations on your effort and achievement in the cause of human freedom, and most hearty wishes for continued and increasing success and encouragement,

I am, dear Sir,
Affectionately yours,
Thatcham, June 26, 1845. W. L. R. C.

General News.

FOREIGN.

AMERICA.

The Great Western mail steamer arrived at Liverpool on Friday morning, having left New York on the 12th instant. The steam ship Cambria arrived on Friday afternoon, having made the entire run from Boston, including the usual detention at Halifax on the 3rd instant, in the wonderfully short space of 10 days and 18 hours. This has never been equaled, being four hours less than the most rapid passage ever accomplished. President Polk was ill, but not in danger. Philadelphia was prepared to pay the dividend on her stock due in August. In fact, the prospect as to Pennsylvania grows brighter and brighter, and the doctrine of repudiation is gradually being repudiated. The *Cincinnati Gazette* states, that the May Ohio interest had been paid, and that that falling due in July will also be promptly met. The New York papers also contain particulars of a destructive fire in that city, by which upwards of one hundred houses were totally consumed, and four hundred families were deprived of their homes. This fire seems to have been in a quarter where property is not so valuable as in many districts of the city, and the houses were small. It is said to have been the work of an incendiary.

President Jones, of Texas, had summoned a national convention, to deliberate on a new constitution for the state as a preliminary to joining the United States, and also on the subject of annexation. The language used by President Jones in his proclamation, that the Texan Convention assemble "for the purpose of considering the proposition for the annexation of Texas to the United States, and any other proposition which may be made concerning the nationality of the republic," had excited very considerable interest; the concluding sentence clearly pointing to the negotiations then pending in Mexico for the conditional acknowledgment of Texan independence. The papers still continued to charge England and France with "impudent interference" in this question.

In Mexico they still look forward to a war with the States. It is said, on the authority of information from Havana, that "letters of marque" from Mexico, giving power to cruise against American commerce, are already in that port, waiting the result of annexation, and a consequent probable declaration of war. But this may be doubted.

The Canadian papers announce sums amounting to £10,000, subscribed for the sufferers by the late fire at Quebec; and other aid was eagerly offered.

A letter from St John's, Newfoundland, dated on the 6th June, states that the Apollo troop-ship, which sailed from Sheerness in April, with two companies of the Royal Artillery corps and other troops for Canada, was lost at St John's, near St John's; and that eighty of those on board perished. It appears from other accounts of that date that a succession of very fearful gales took place off the banks of Newfoundland, there being at that time a vast accumulation of ice. Several ships had been lost, and amongst them was the bark Jupiter, from Liverpool, bound to St John's. She had been crushed by the floating ice, and so suddenly that eight out of the ship's company perished with her.

FRANCE.

The bill granting the government a credit of ten millions of francs, to meet the expense of fitting out the squadron to be placed on the west coast of Africa, in terms of the slave-trade convention recently entered into with England, passed the French Chamber of Deputies on Friday, by 243 to 1. The vote was a silent one.

The strike of the journeymen carpenters of Paris excites great interest in that capital. It appears that the building operations are nearly all suspended, and that thousands of masons and other workmen are likely to be thrown out of employment by the refusal of the carpenters to go on with their work. The authorities have arrested two of the leaders of the combination, but this proceeding has been without effect, and some of the opposition journals attack the government for what they call an infringement of the rights of the people.

Thursday's advices from Paris state, that although the passports demanded by Don Carlos were allowed, those demanded by his son, the Prince of the Asturias, were refused.

The recent accounts from Algiers have given a good deal of uneasiness to the French government. The expedition of Marshal Bugeaud to the western part of the colony has produced no good effect, notwithstanding the favourable accounts which have appeared in the Marshal's published despatches. It is said that the government, so far from diminishing the number of troops in the colony, will be obliged to increase them considerably. Marshal Bugeaud has had an attack of fever, which it is supposed will oblige him to return to France.

The *Constitutionnel* states that the Seine corvette is to sail shortly for Tahiti, with 200 soldiers on board. Another body, already sent out, was to supply the losses occasioned by the combat of Mahahena. The present body is to be a supplementary force.

SYRIA.

The Smyrna journals of the 9th instant bring news from Beyrout of the 3rd instant. The Maronites, although at first victorious, had ultimately succumbed, in consequence of the better combined and directed efforts of their enemies. All those who resided in the mixed districts of Sciuf, Giurd, and Garb, had been expelled from them; most of those at Gesin had fallen victims to the perfidy of the

Druses; and the Maronites of Harbeja and Rasceja, in Anti-Lebanon, after an obstinate resistance had been compelled to fly, some to Damascus, and the greatest number to Zahlé. There was, however, every probability that the civil war would be speedily terminated. At the request of the European consuls, Vedjid Pasha had called a meeting of the Christian Wekils and Druse chiefs at Beyrout; and on the 1st instant an armistice had been agreed to by both parties. The conditions of a reconciliation had been forwarded to Constantinople, and until the decision of the Divan could be known, the Maronites and Druses were to continue in their respective positions, the chiefs assuming to themselves the responsibility of any hostile act, and promising to arrest and punish the aggressors. The number of villages burned exceeded a hundred, the two-thirds of which belonged to the Christians, and seventeen of their convents had been reduced to ashes. Thirty thousand persons were then at Kesrouan, Zahlé, Saide, and Beyrout, without abode or means of existence.

FOREIGN MISCELLANY.

CAPE OF GOOD HOPE papers of the 25th of April, state that a collision has taken place between the Dutch emigrants and the Griqua tribe on the north-eastern frontier, in which the latter had the advantage. The Grikas speak confidently of success, and only ask English troops for the protection of their wives and property. A good deal of bloodshed is expected, and should the Dutch within the boundary join their countrymen, the aborigines will speedily be defeated.

DISCOVERIES IN POLYNESIA.—Accounts received from Belgium state that Captain d'Hondt, of the ship *Industriel*, has made a discovery of three new islands in Polynesia.—*Globe*.

THE QUEEN OF SPAIN, says report, will wed a Coburg, and the price of King Louis Philippe's acquiescence in that arrangement is, that his son, the Duc de Montpensier, shall marry her Majesty's sister.—*Times*.

A Madrid paper, generally believed to be in the confidence of the present government of Spain, strongly advises the early selection of a husband for Queen Isabella. From circumstances that have recently come to our knowledge, we are induced to join very earnestly in this recommendation. We are led to believe that, for reasons of a very peculiar nature, it would be exceedingly desirable that a husband should be forthwith provided for her Majesty.—*Morning Post*.

TAHITI.—Intelligence of a later date than any yet made public has been received from Tahiti by the London Missionary Society, by which we learn that the child to which the Queen gave birth about seven months since is not expected to live. The Queen had retired to the island of Raiatea, but avoided sleeping in any of the towns or villages, for fear of being betrayed into the hands of the French. A project is in contemplation to raise among the Protestant churches of Europe a sum of money sufficient to remove the exiled Queen and her faithful subjects to an island of one of the neighbouring groups, where, placing themselves under the protection of some of the European powers, they may be secured in the quiet enjoyment of their property and their religion.

DOMESTIC.

METROPOLITAN.

EXTENSIVE METROPOLITAN IMPROVEMENTS.—There never was a period in the history of England when so many public projects were ripe, and what is better still, with so much practical good sense brought to bear upon them—a happy union of the perceptions of many variously public-spirited men. Amongst all their projects, none has struck us more forcibly than the proposition just put forth under the title of the "Thames Embankment and City Railway Company." The views of the "Metropolitan Improvement Society," of the "Health of Towns Commissioners," of the "Agricultural Improvement Society," and of the advocates for a central metropolitan railway terminus, are all herein embodied, together with a comprehensive plan of architectural embellishment; and, as a bond to cement the whole together, the prospect of a very handsome income, arising to those who subscribe the capital for carrying it out—an income not likely to diminish, but, on the contrary, to increase, so long as London shall be the chief town of England, or till that further period when the geography taught in schools shall proclaim England the chief town in Europe; for to that conclusion are we coming by railway prowess, when all nations shall be amalgamated, and Spain, Portugal, and parts of Italy and Russia, shall be the only unruly districts labouring under misgovernment—the Ireland and Wales of the coming time, about whom able editors will write, with numerous plans to bring them within the pale of civilised society. The embankment of the northern side of the river between Westminster and Blackfriars bridges has long been propounded, and more earnestly since the commencement of the new houses of parliament, from a desire to get rid of the unsightly mud banks; but a difficulty existed as to the disposal of the sewers, for to make a public promenade of the river bank with so many gaping mouths of pollution was fruitless; but all these difficulties are now got over, and we see nothing likely to retard its execution. It is intended to carry the embankment about ten feet above high water mark, and to convert the enclosed land into public gardens, leaving here and there small docks, the entrances to which will be spanned by iron bridges, carrying the roadway. Passing under Waterloo bridge, and also Blackfriars, the embankment

will leave the river side, and merge into a new street sixty feet wide, opening up the range of churches between Thames street and Cannon street, and clearing out a range of narrow streets and lanes of little value, and very detrimental to good ventilation. Spanning King William street to the south of the statue with a handsome structure, the street will open up the old neighbourhood north of the Monument, and join the Blackwall railway at Fenchurch street. Along the whole line a catch sewer will be laid, receiving the contents of the Fleet ditch and all other sewers, and preventing any communication with the river, except in case of unusual floods of land water. On the outer edge of the embankment a line of railway will be laid. Within the railway there will be a carriage drive and footway, commencing at Hungerford bridge. When the embankment leaves the river, after passing Blackfriars, the line will gradually ascend, and be carried on an iron frame viaduct at the level of the first floors of the houses down the middle of the new street till it joins the Blackwall railway. The atmospheric principle of traction will be adopted, and wooden rails most probably used along the viaduct, so that there will absolutely be neither noise nor dust. Underneath the viaduct, will be the ordinary street for the traffic of carriages, and wide pavements and lines of shops as usual. From Blackwall it is intended to carry on a line of railway to the Thames Haven, Tilbury Fort, and Southend, which will at once free the traffic of the river from the whole of the collier vessels and coal barges by superior cheapness. The surplus power of the stationary engines will be employed to work pumps to carry up the sewer water, through a line of main pipes, laid along the surface of the railway; and thus this valuable manure, shown by Subry, Smith of Deniston, and others, to be far more precious to the agriculturist than the richest guano, may be served and distributed at very trifling cost along the railway, converting the whole of the Essex district into a highly productive garden, and saving the expense of ordinary manuring. The land along such a line must increase enormously in value, from the saving in labour, and the immense facility of bringing produce direct into the very heart of the town. Connected as this line will be with all the other lines, by its Hungerford terminus, it is hardly possible to overrate its importance in conveying the produce of Essex, both animal and vegetable, in every direction. It is easy to foresee that railways must be carried to all the existing markets, or the markets will change their localities to the borders of railways. The principle laid down by this company, of forming viaducts in the centre of wide streets, must prevail, and it will be carried out in existing as well as new streets. Smithfield will probably cease to be a cattle stand, and be made far more valuable as a general market, being roofed in with a railway viaduct branching out in all directions. For these street viaducts, the atmospheric principle must be universally adopted, as the viaducts will not need half the strength required for a locomotive, and it will not do to throw fire about in the streets. We understand the company contemplate connecting lines of street viaduct in several quarters. Our opinion is, that no locomotives should be allowed to enter the town at all, and many other improvements consequent on this system of atmospheric street viaducts, will become obvious as they proceed. To sum up. The river will be embanked. The poisonous stream of the sewers will be diverted from the river to purposes of economy and health, and the example set of a practice worth millions per annum to the nation. The chemists estimate our present waste at one pound per head per annum—a sum sufficient to make all the railways of the community. The city will be within four minutes, and the sea within ninety minutes of Westminster. Architecture will be improved, and the example made plain how to double the size of our streets, by carrying the railway above and the road below. In many cases the road will serve for a sheltered piazza. In all this there is an amount of sound practical originality, deserving of all praise. At the same time the originality is in the combination and application; the various models are to be found in existing practices for other purposes.

EXHIBITION OF FINE ARTS AT WESTMINSTER HALL.

—On Saturday the exhibition of cartoons and frescoes upon subjects proposed by the Royal Commission of the Fine Arts, with a view to the decoration of six compartments in the House of Lords, was opened to private view. The vast apartment was well filled with an assemblage of rank and fashion. The *Times* contains the following description of, and criticisms on, the pictures:—The statues which occupy the centre of the hall are merely a subordinate part of the exhibition, challenging no comparison, soliciting no premium. The pictorial works that hang from the walls are the real objects of interest. These are confined to three allegorical and three historical subjects, expressly named by the committee. With scarcely an exception, the artists have sent in each a large cartoon, a small coloured sketch of the same subject, and a portion of the design in fresco. By the small sketch he exhibits his conception with the effects of colour he intends to produce; the cartoon shows the development of the conception; and by the fresco he proves his ability of working in material with which English artists are as yet not familiar. This arrangement is excellent, and we would particularly advise the visitors in no instance to pass unnoticed the small sketches; the addition of colour giving a view of the intention, we may almost say (paradoxical as it may seem), of the composition, which cannot be elicited from the most attentive survey of the cartoon. The most natural way of reviewing the exhibition will, perhaps, be to group the whole into

six classes, according to the subjects proposed. First, then, of "Religion," which was to be illustrated allegorically. Mr Frederick Fort's treatment of this subject is one of the most striking among many specimens of the tendency to follow the German imitations of the early Italian school. The figures are as flat as possible, and wear a uniform heavy expression, no spark of animation radiating in their Teutonic faces. The form of the composition is questionable, the lower group suddenly terminating in a straight line, upon which the upper group is placed as a pyramid, so that there is a want of blending in the whole. Nevertheless, it is a cartoon not to be dismissed without an expression of respect, for there is about it a largeness of conception and a breadth of design that show vigour in the artist. Mr Augustine Aglio may be mentioned for the softness and finish of his cartoon, and for the successful management of his fresco, but the design is feeble. In Mr Butler Morris's work the sitting figure of Joseph is alone worthy of commendation. Next to it is a cartoon of much higher pretensions, Mr Paton's "Spirit of Religion." Here the human soul is typified, as an ancient hero, fighting its way through the crowd of worldly temptations, of which two voluptuous female 'nudes' are the most conspicuous. The fault to which the cartoon is obnoxious lies in the general view taken of the subject. Although professedly a Christian allegory, it is really and essentially Pagan. Mr John Callcott Horsley has been much more deeply imbued with the solemnity of his subject. In a work remarkable for its chaste simplicity, he has represented the subjugation of all earthly power to Deity. The large kneeling figure of a king chiefly depicts this idea. It is represented with a stately tranquillity, and, though the face is not visible to the spectator, the feeling is perfectly indicated by the attitude, and a certain calm air of sublimity which the painter has cast over his work. Mr Edward Armitage has produced a work of remarkable boldness and vigour, with all the peculiarities of his style. The three Christian virtues stand out in a dark foreground, which is balanced by the figure of Religion, which stands above in a strong light, and whose distance from the rest is delicately represented by an ethereal dimness. The outline is ploughed into the cartoon in the very ultraism of distinctness, and the flatness of the upper part of the central figure shows the artist's direction towards continental models. This flatness is, however, by no means uniform, and the chained extended arm of the overthrown figure to the right—one of the strongest portions of the cartoon—stands out in solid reality. There are, besides the above, cartoons by several other artists on the same subject, but not worthy of especial notice. The second subject is the allegory of "Justice." There are illustrations on this subject from Messrs J. Z. Bell, E. H. Wehnert, W. C. Thomas, John Tenniel, Ford Brown, Waller, and others. Mr John Tenniel's allegory of "Justice" is, perhaps, the finest design in the hall, and, as the cartoon is merely in outline, without a particle of shade, it is here especially necessary to look at the coloured sketch. The figure of "Justice," seated on a throne, raised above a flight of steps, is of a sublime ideality, and the allegorical figures, which are carried all round the design, and of which "Justice" is the summit, form a beautiful specimen of circular grouping. The circle is chequered by every variety of expression, and the cartoon, in its outline state, reminds us of Retzsch's happiest creations. In the allegorical illustration of "Chivalry" (the third subject), Mr MacIse has given a cartoon which, as a specimen of finish with the pencil alone, is truly marvelous. So full and rich is the shadowing, so high the elaboration in this respect, that black and white produce an effect almost compensating that of colour, especially such colour as we usually find in the works of Mr MacIse. Those sudden oppositions, those unblending hues, find their exact representative in the cartoon, and when the spectator turns to the coloured sketch, he there finds completely realised the effect he had anticipated. Together with the high finish of execution, in which this cartoon stands unapproached—being, as we have said, rather a picture than a cartoon—and the excessive carefulness and variety of detail, may be found that want of unity, of a combining centre, which was observed in Mr MacIse's "Knight" last year. The other artists who have illustrated the subject are Messrs Foggo, West, and Frank Howard. The three historical subjects are—"The Baptism of Ethelbert," "The Acknowledgment of Gascoigne's Authority by Prince Henry," and "Edward the Black Prince receiving the Order of Chivalry." On the first subject, the best cartoon is by Mr W. Dyce; in the second by Mr John Bridges; and in the third by Mr Copes; the latter of which is one of the best in the exhibition. The sculpture is not very striking. The three prizes of £200 for the cartoons have been awarded to Mr Paton, Mr Armitage, and Mr Tenniel.

UNIVERSITY COLLEGE OF LONDON.—DISTRIBUTION OF PRIZES.—On Saturday, at two o'clock, the theatre of the University College, in Gower street, was crowded with about 400 visitors, a great portion of whom were fashionably attired ladies, to witness the distribution of prizes, consisting of elegantly bound books and honorary certificates to the students of the college. On the raised platform were several distinguished patrons of the institution, amongst whom was the most noble the Marquis of Normanby (who presided), Lord Brougham, president; the Earl of Auckland, vice-president, Sir I. L. Goldsmid, Bart., Mr Warburton, M.P., Mr W. Ewart, M.P., Mr Aldham, M.P., Dr Bowring, M.P., Mr John Wood, chairman of Excise; Mons. Prevost, the Swiss consul, &c. The noble marquis having briefly opened the business, a most satisfactory report was read by Professor Carey, and the several prizes

were then presented to the following gentlemen:—

Natural Philosophy. (Professor Potter, A.M.). Senior class: first prize—Robert B. Hayward; second prize—George Good. Junior class: first prize—John L. Evans; second prize—S. L. Roget. Experimental class: first prize—Joseph Lister; second prize—W. Clapp.

Latin (Professor Long, M.A.).—Senior class: first prize—C. A. Bowring; second prize—H. S. Rosher. Junior class: first prize—H. Lloyd; second prize—H. R. Richmond.

Greek (Professor Maldon, M.A.).—Senior class: first prize—C. A. Bowring; second prize—W. Rushton. Junior class: first prize—R. G. Williams; second prize—G. Good.

Hebrew (Rev. D. W. Marks, Teacher).—Prize, William Rushton.

English (Professor Latham, M.D.).—Language: prize—H. Mathews. Literature: prize—Andrew Hamilton.

French (Professor Merlet).—Senior class: prize—T. L. Donaldson. Junior class: prize—R. S. Aston.

Italian (Professor Pepoli).—Prize—J. M. Lockyer.

German (Mr Wittich, Teacher).—Prize—E. Steere.

Comparative Grammar (Professor Key, A.M.). Prize—W. Rushton.

History (Professor Creasy, A.M.).—Prize—James Merries.

Mental Philosophy and Logic (Professor Hopkins).—First prize—William Calfex. Second prize—John L. Short.

Mathematics (Professor de Morgan).—Extra Senior: prize—B. H. Hutton. Higher Senior: prize—L. B. Hayward. Lower Senior: prize—H. Mathews. Higher Junior: first prize—E. Condor. Higher Junior: second prize—W. Colfax.

Drawing (Mr G. B. More, Teacher).—First Prize—Ben. Barnwell. Second Prize—Edwin Ireland.

Architecture (Professor Donaldson).—Fine Arts—Second Year: prize—G. P. Boyce. Science—Second year: Prize—C. Corbett. Fine Arts—First Year: first prize—G. Lamb. Science—Second Year: prize—J. Chancellor.

Botany (Professor Lindley).—Junior class:—Prize—Thomas Limbery.

Zoology (Professor Grant, M.D.).—Prize, John Hollingsworth.

Law (Professor Carey).—Two prizes—H. G. Roche.

Jurisprudence (Professor Hargrave).—Prize—H. G. Roche.

The noble chairman gave the various prizes to the successful competitors, which consisted of several valuable books, elegantly bound, and certificates of honour. At the conclusion, the noble chairman delivered an eloquent address to the meeting, and was followed by Lord Brougham proposing thanks to the noble Marquis, who briefly acknowledged the compliment, and the business terminated.

LONDON HOMŒOPATHIC INSTITUTION.—The second anniversary festival of this institution was celebrated, on Wednesday evening, by a public dinner, at the Albion tavern—the Earl of Wilton in the chair—supported by his brother, Lord R. Grosvenor, W. Leaf, Esq., Dr Curie, Dr Epps, and several other gentlemen interested in the progress of the science of homœopathy. Upwards of one hundred persons sat down to a sumptuous banquet. From the report of the last year's proceedings, it appeared there were 1,031 patients received in the institution during the year; that 386 were discharged cured; that 15 had died; and that 630 remained under treatment. The meeting was an animated and interesting one. Some observations of the Chairman on the conduct of Mr Wakley, at a recent inquest, and on the rebuke subsequently administered to that gentleman by Dr Curie, were received with great applause. The donations announced amounted to 205*l*.

SOCIETY FOR THE IMPROVEMENT OF THE LABOURING CLASSES.—The first annual meeting of the Society for the Improvement of the Condition of the Labouring Classes was held at Willis's rooms on Thursday. Lord Ashley presided; and the Bishop of Norwich, with several ecclesiastical dignitaries, many peers, members of the House of Commons, and distinguished philanthropists, were present. The report stated, that negotiations had been opened in twenty-two places near London, to obtain allotments of land, and with great difficulty several had been obtained, for the poor; the experiment being attended with great success. A further report from the sub-committee on dwellings for the poor was promised, respecting the Society's new model buildings at Pentonville. In the third branch of the Society's operation—loans at moderate interest, nothing had been done. The receipts had been £4,626; the expenses £3,726; balance on hand, £900. The report was adopted, and resolutions in support of the Society were passed unanimously.

JUSTICES' JUSTICE.—A fashionably-dressed gentleman is charged with stealing two knockers. The offence is proved, and the magistrate, Mr Hardwick, does not commit the prisoner for trial, but fines him five shillings. What takes knocker-stealing out of the category of felony? If a man may get off with a fine for stealing a knocker, why not fine another five shillings for stealing a leg of mutton? The difference between the cases that makes the difference in the punishment is, that the man who steals the leg of mutton has probably not five shillings to pay for his knavery. But the knocker-stealing is in sport; and is it quite of good example to make a sport of stealing? Persons addicted to such pleasantries should have the fun completed by a turn at the tread-mill. Felony in sport should be punished in earnest. Our well-dressed gentleman, fined five shillings for stealing a knocker, treated the mock punishment as follows:—

"The defendant pulled out a £10 note, and handed it to the police constable. When he was asked for his address to place on the note, the defendant replied, 'Don't you wish you may get it?'"

At the same office, three gentlemen, whose addresses showed that they belonged to the class which magis-

trates delight to favour, were charged with assaulting a police officer in the execution of his duty, the man having been thrown down, and, when down, beaten by all three. They were not sent to the House of Correction, but fined £5 each, which they paid forthwith, and walked off. At the Thames police office, a low ruffian, for the same offence, was sent by Mr Broderip to the House of Correction for a month. Mr Broderip did his duty; what the Marlborough-street justice did we need not say. The Commissioners of Police should interfere to protect the force from the effects of the bad example presented at Marlborough street. The law directs a special punishment for assaults on the police, and what right has the magistrate to set it aside to indulge aristocratic ruffianism?—*Examiner*.

A SINGULAR DISCOVERY has been made in White Conduit fields, Islington. Some labourers were engaged, on Thursday, in digging at the depth of about thirty feet, for the purpose of forming a new sewer, when they met with an obstruction in the shape of a massive stone, measuring in circumference about forty feet. After great exertions the stone was displaced, and disclosed to view a kind of chamber, measuring eight feet in width, by ten feet in length, and five feet in depth, the sides of which were beautifully engraved with antique figures. Upon a minute examination the cavity was found to contain another block of stone, hewn out somewhat in the form of a coffin, as also a large quantity of coins, bearing date the year 110 (which was the only inscription that could then be traced), and several war instruments of a superior construction, many parts being of gold. From the fact of bones having been discovered in the supposed coffin, it is considered that some person of distinction has been entombed in this spot, together with all his worldly appurtenances, which was a custom observed by persons moving in affluence amongst the ancients.

MR GREEN made his 301st aerial voyage on Wednesday. He ascended in his balloon from Cremorne house, Chelsea, accompanied by seven passengers. The descent was safely accomplished at Hornchurch, in Essex.

FALL OF THE MARINERS' CHAPEL AND A PUBLIC-HOUSE.—On Sunday morning, about three o'clock, the premises in the possession of Mr G. C. Smith, 17, Wellclose square, which were occupied as a Mariners' church, Naval and Military office, and Sailors' Orphan asylum, together with the public-house, known as the Mahogany Bar, fell with a tremendous crash. The matron of the Orphan asylum states that, shortly before the building fell, she heard several loose bricks and pieces of plaster falling on the sky-light over the back part of the church, which extends beyond the rear of the premises, and hearing much knocking and bustle in the Mahogany Bar, she feared some accident, and removed the children from the upper part of the house to the vestry of the church, and immediately aroused the school master. The clothing of the master, mistress, and children, lies buried beneath the ruins. The poor little children escaped in almost a state of nudity. In order to make the place sufficiently commodious, various alterations had been made within the building, which, it is supposed, so weakened the structure as to cause the present disaster. During the last few days the inhabitants observed that the premises were getting out of the perpendicular.

FRIGHTFUL STEAM-BOAT ACCIDENT.—On Thursday afternoon, between 2 and 3 o'clock, a fearful accident occurred on board the Eclipse Chelsea steam-boat, to a young man named Gemins. The boat was on her way between Chelsea and London, and whilst off Lambeth the foolish fellow, who was slightly intoxicated, tried to mount the paddle-box by stepping on the skylight immediately over the engine. The motion of the boat overbalanced him, and he fell in upon the piston, which was ascending at the time. The consequence was, that it jammed him several times against the beam above before it could be stopped. When extricated he was found to have his thighs completely smashed, and received other injuries that preclude any chance of a recovery. The boat instantly put him on shore at Chandler's boat-house, Millbank, whence he was conveyed to the hospital. The boat was going slowly at the time, and there was no blame attributable to any one on board.—*Globe*.

PROVINCIAL.

FORTHCOMING ELECTIONS.

REPRESENTATION OF DARTMOUTH.—The vacancy occasioned in the representation of this borough by the sudden death of Mr Somes, has brought three candidates into the field.—Mr Moffatt, the defeated candidate at the last election; Captain John Rhodes Pidding, of the tea warehouse, on College hill; and Mr H. T. Prinsep; the two former on the whig, the latter on the conservative, interest. Mr Moffatt had all the advantage of an early start, having himself brought the intelligence of Mr Somes's death to the town, traveling express for the purpose, and arriving in Dartmouth some hours before the fact could have become known in the regular course. Mr Moffatt has issued an address accepting an invitation to stand. Mr Prinsep is the same gentleman who opposed Mr Vincent at Kilmarnock. There seems to be little doubt of Mr Moffatt's return. The nomination is fixed for this day; the polling for to-morrow.

ABINGDON.—The new attorney-general (Sir F. Thesiger), notwithstanding the haste in which, on Monday night, a new writ was moved for Abingdon, will not walk over the course unopposed. General Caulfield will be the liberal candidate, and will contest the seat as an old whig, opposed to all new reli-

gious endowments. The constituency numbers about 330 electors, of whom the reformers count two-fifths in their interest, a fourth of the constituency being untested and doubtful. Sir F. Thesiger has been hitherto unopposed; but it is doubtful whether the majority can be polled in approval of the recent Irish policy of the government. The Dissenters are strong in the borough, and some of the former partisans of the Attorney-general, it is said, are resolved to remain neutral.

EXETER.—Mr Teed, a Chancery barrister, arrived on Sunday night, as a candidate to supply the vacancy caused by the death of Sir W. Follett. The conservatives generally did not like their candidate, who, at a meeting held at the Old London inn, this morning, was withdrawn. The liberals brought forward General Briggs, who comes backed up by the League party. Mr Fitzroy Kelly is to be invited to come, and he, it is supposed, would unite the party, and enable it to defeat the free-trader; but, according to present appearances, the latter will gain greatly by the delay. The free-traders are full of life and activity. Mr R. R. Moore, the lecturer, is about to address the inhabitants at the subscription rooms, and the steam will be rapidly got up. The League have engaged the great County Assembly rooms for the week. General Briggs is, we believe, an opponent of all state endowments of religion.

WEST SUFFOLK.—There is expected to be a contest for the representation of this division of the county. The high sheriff has appointed Monday, the 7th of July, for the nomination of candidates. Should there be a contest, the election will commence on Thursday, the 10th, the Reform act giving an interval of two clear days in county elections, and the poll, if persisted in, must be kept open until four o'clock on Friday evening. In that case, the official declaration would not be made until the Monday following. At the meeting of tenant farmers holden here on Wednesday, the names of several gentlemen were mentioned as eligible candidates; but, with the exception of Captain Bennett, of Rougham hall, no other candidate has come forward at present. Captain Bennett has issued an address to the electors, in which he declares his attachment to conservative principles, and his determination to support the agricultural interest. It is said that the party upon whose support he relies will require a more unequivocal guarantee of sincerity on the part of their candidate than the formal avowal of a political creed common to all election addresses. It is certain that before Captain Bennett was called forward, overtures were made to the Earl of Euston, but, as the deputation exacted specific pledges as a condition of support, his lordship declined the proffered honour. There was to be a meeting of Captain Bennett's principal supporters on Monday, for the purpose of making the preliminary arrangements for conducting the election, and a spirited canvass in his favour has already commenced.

PROTESTANT CANDIDATE FOR LIVERPOOL.—At the annual meeting of the Toxteth Park Protestant Operative Association, held at the Music hall, on Monday week, Charles Horsfall, Esq., nominated Mr Pringle as the Protestant candidate for Liverpool, at the next election, in lieu of Lord Sandon. In naming this gentleman, Mr Horsfall said he did so without having had any conference with the committee on the subject. He believed it necessary to be early in the field with a candidate, and that Mr Pringle was eminently deserving of the confidence and support of the electors. Lord Sandon has offended his constituents by his support of the Maynooth Endowment bill.—*Watchman*.

REPRESENTATION OF SOUTH WILTS.—Mr Sidney Herbert's gross insult to the farmers, in taunting them with "wearying parliament with whining petitions for relief," has produced, in some degree, the natural fruit. He was not only threatened with being hissed and hooted on his public entry into Warminster, at the head of his troop, while the Royal Wiltshire Yeomanry troop were doing duty there a few weeks ago—a fate which he only escaped by entering the town privately, in the evening, leaving Cornet Earl Nelson to take his place in the front rank; but he is threatened with being ousted from the representation of that which he considers as his own pocket borough—the southern division of the county! Mr Baker, the Essex farmer, land-valuer, and auctioneer, being the instrument mentioned, at whose hands the right hon. gentleman is to be humbled and degraded.—*Wilts Independent*.

CONGREGATIONAL BOARD OF EDUCATION.—COUNTY OF ESSEX.—The fourth meeting in behalf of raising a fund for educational purposes in Essex, was held at Mr C. Riggs's chapel, Tiptree heath, on Tuesday evening, June 17th. The chair was taken by F. U. Pattison, Esq.; and Messrs Kay, of Coggeshall; Davids, of Colchester; Anderson, of Bures; Riggs, of Tiptree; Ainslie, of London; and C. Wilkin, Esq., addressed the assembly, and the contributions amounted to £70. The fifth meeting was held at Wivenhoe, on Thursday, June 19th, when the most hearty welcome was given to the friends of education. The noble sum of £216 10s. was announced as the amount of the contributions, with every prospect of making it £250. The meeting was addressed by the Chairman, Mr Hubbard, pastor at Wivenhoe, and by the Messrs James of Fordham, Davids, Riggs, Kaye, and Ainslie. The sixth meeting was held on Friday, June 20, at Manningtree, where, from local circumstances, it was thought to be impracticable to raise any contributions among the people. To the satisfaction of all present, the amount at the close of the meeting was declared to be about £60. The chair was taken by J. M. Churchill, Esq.; and the Messrs Hubbard, Fairfax, of Bergholt; Riggs; Trew, of Dedham; Davids, and Ainslie, addressed the meeting. Thus, in six places, and five

of them in the Colchester district, the sum of upwards of £2,000 has been raised. The county is divided into eight districts, and, besides those places in the Colchester district yet unvisited, the seven other districts have to be worked. Everywhere in Essex the cause of education seems to be appreciated. Meetings are fixed for Harwich, Rochford, Kelvedon, Fordham, Chelmsford, and Castle Hedingham.

NEWCASTLE-UPON-TYNE.—A movement is being made in Newcastle, with a view to the establishment of a collegiate institution in that town, in connexion with the London University.

THE BRITISH ASSOCIATION FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF SCIENCE separated on Wednesday last, after a series of meetings of less than usual interest. On the previous Saturday, the chemical section was a more than usual object of interest, from the announcement that Professor Boutigny, one of the most distinguished members of the Royal Academy of Sciences in Paris, would freeze water in a red-hot vessel. Professor Boutigny's experiment excited the most lively interest, the room being completely crowded. The title of the communication was "Experiments on the spheroidal state of bodies, and its application to steam-boilers, and on the freezing of water in red-hot vessels." He commenced by showing, that when cold water is poured on a hot metallic surface, the heat is not communicated to it, and that the water assumes a spheroidal form, and continues to roll about, upheld at a minute distance from the heated surface, without boiling. The water poured into a heated platinum cup, was kept in rapid motion, and resembled a small globe of glass dancing about. There was no hissing noise, nor appearance of steam, though the globe of water must nevertheless have evaporated rapidly, for, after gradually diminishing in size, in the course of about two minutes it disappeared. The same result takes place when any substance capable of assuming a globular form, is placed on a heated surface; in proof of which the professor placed in the heated cup of platinum iodine, ammonia, and some inflammable substances, each of which became globular, and danced about like the globe of water, but without emitting vapour or smell, or being inflamed, until the platinum cup was cooled. With the iodine the appearance was very remarkable, as there was no emission of vapour so long as the cup was kept over a powerful spirit-lamp; but when removed, the purple vapour of the iodine issued forth in dense volumes. Professor Boutigny, who addressed the meeting in French, advanced no theory to account for these peculiar actions, further than that a film of vapour intervenes between the heated body and the substance, which prevents the communication of heat. The facts, however, he thought, were of importance in a practical point of view, both in the tempering of metals and in the explanation of the causes of steam-boiler explosions. It would seem, from these experiments, in tempering metals, if the metal be too much heated, the effect of plunging it into water will be diminished. In steamboilers, also, if the water be introduced into a heated surface, the heat may not be communicated to the water, and the boiler may become red hot, and without any great emission of steam, until, at length, when the boiler cools, a vast quantity of steam would become suddenly generated, and the boiler burst. In practice, however, such circumstance can scarcely ever occur, as the water is introduced before the boiler is heated, and the supply is afterwards gradually kept up: but some of the hitherto mysterious explosions of steam-boilers may perhaps be explained on this principle. The last and most curious experiment performed by Professor Boutigny, was the freezing of water in a red-hot vessel. Having heated a platinum cup red hot, he poured into it a small quantity of water, which was kept in a globular form, as in the other experiments. He then poured into the cup some liquid sulphurous acid, when a sudden evaporation ensued, and on quickly inverting the cup, there came out a small mass of ice. This experiment called forth loud and continued applause, and M. Boutigny appeared as much delighted as his audience with the success of his experiment. The principle on which this experiment depends is this:—Sulphurous acid has the property of boiling when it is at a temperature below the freezing point, and when poured into the heated vessel, the suddenness of the evaporation occasions a degree of cold sufficient to freeze water. In the Geological Section, on Monday, Professor Forbes described a singular phenomenon connected with the fresh-water tertiary of the island of Cos. It consisted of a transmutation of forms, which were proved to have taken place in various marine animals from the admixture of salt along with the fresh water. Such distortions were not at all uncommon, producing such changes even in the forms that they had often been characterised as new species; whereas, in reality, they had only become modified by the change of food and circumstances under which they were placed. On Tuesday, there was another discussion on ozone and its existence in the atmosphere. Professor Schönbein thought that it is developed largely by atmospheric electricity; and he conceived that it was thus generated in such quantities as would endanger life were it not removed as soon as it was formed by the agency of organic matter. He attributed the phosphorescence of the sea and the luminousness of the glow-worm entirely to this agency. At a general meeting, on Monday, it was resolved to hold the meeting for 1846 at Southampton, in September. Invitations were also sent from Cheltenham and Norwich; but Southampton was selected, as being convenient for foreign visitors. Mr Murchison was appointed President for the ensuing year; and the following were appointed Vice-Presidents—the Marquis of Winchester, the Earl of Yarborough, Viscount

Palmerston; Lord Ashburton, Sir W. Heathcote, Sir George Staunton, the Dean of Westminster, Professor Owen, and the Speaker of the House of Commons. A general meeting was held on Wednesday, principally to pass the usual complimentary votes of thanks; and then the assemblage finally broke up.

THE SHORT TIME MOVEMENT.—We are informed that Messrs Harter and Edwards, of the Irwell silk mill, Salford, have allowed their hands, amounting to 700, the privilege of the half-holiday, without any abatement in their wages. At present there are four establishments, employing nearly 4000 hands, who have had the same concessions granted to them.—*Manchester Times*. The drapers of Halifax have kindly granted to the young men in their employment a weekly half-holiday, for the purpose of improving their mental and physical powers. The shops are accordingly announced to close for the future on Friday afternoon, at one o'clock. The example is an excellent one, and ought to be followed in other towns.—*Leeds Times*. The grocers of Gateshead, the shoemakers of Newcastle, and other tradesmen, are adopting the "short-hour" system, and closing their shops at seven o'clock. It is also intended, we understand, that the shopmen of several tradesmen shall next week have two "half-holidays." We are glad to observe, from the provincial press, that the early closing of shops, far from having gone out of fashion, is gradually extending itself. In Oxford, Stourbridge, Bury St Edmunds, and Burnley, a change for the better has lately been effected.

THE GAME LAWS.—We have this week to call attention to another of those atrocious cases, now of weekly occurrence, in which parties are twice severely punished for one offence, and that offence not one in the nature of the thing itself, but only made so by absurd and cruel laws. At the Buckingham petty sessions, this week, J. Smith was convicted in fines and costs of the dreadful offence of firing at a hare. The information was laid by John Holland, one of the Duke of Buckingham's gamekeepers, and was supported by a Mr Spence, another of the Duke's band of persecutors. Mr Atkins, the surveyor of assessed taxes, was present, and, after a great deal of pressing, acknowledged that he had been instructed to attend for the purpose of surcharging poor Smith. Now, could anything show greater vindictiveness or cruelty than this? Not content with punishing, to an extravagant extent, the innocent act of attempting to destroy a head of vermin, by availing himself of the statute passed expressly to protect the game, the prosecutor instructs the tax-gatherer to proceed to a second prosecution of the game-law victim, and to convict him under another act of parliament, which will have the effect of keeping the poor fellow in prison for an indefinite period.—*Aylesbury News*.

COSTS BEFORE MAGISTRATES AT PETTY SESSIONS.—A poor man, named John Rose, was charged, on Wednesday last, before the magistrates of the Egham division of the county of Surrey, with having cut some grass, "of the value of one penny," growing by the side of a ditch, on the farm of Mr Lane. He was convicted of having done damage to the extent of four farthings, which he was ordered to pay, together with costs amounting to upwards of one hundred and fifty times that sum, the expenses being 13s. 6d. The defendant had a fortnight allowed him to raise the amount of the costs, and, in default, he was ordered to be committed to prison for three weeks!

EXTRAORDINARY FANATICISM IN CHESHIRE.—A correspondent of the *Mercury*, who calls himself an "eye witness," states the following extraordinary occurrence:—"For some time back, Mr John Lancaster Moreton, of this town, has had workmen employed to build a wall and make other improvements on his estate at Elton, in Cheshire, occupied by James Robson, when a report was circulated that they were erecting a nunnery. On Tuesday, the 10th instant, in the afternoon, a large force assembled, armed with crowbars and other implements of destruction, headed by a person who is described as a local preacher, who mounted a ladder which the party had brought, having a crowbar in his hand. He got to the top, saying, 'Come on, men, set to work. They are Romans! Drive them; they have no business here. Send them to Rome, where they came from.' His men set to work, and part of the building was leveled to the ground—Mr Moreton having called his workmen off, and charged them to be peaceable and quiet, otherwise many lives might have been lost. The mob stood for some time daring the men to come on, and challenged them to fight, but no notice having been taken of them, they walked off, after the preacher had told them they had done enough for the night, but they would have to come again at a future time. The fanatic who headed this attack says he was directed by the 'Spirit of God.'"—*Liverpool Chronicle*.

NEW FIRE ESCAPE.—On Tuesday last, a new and simple, but very ingenious apparatus for enabling persons to escape from a building on fire, was tested in the Market place, Manchester, by Mr Rose, superintendent of the fire police, and a party of his men. It is thus described by the *Manchester Guardian*:

The apparatus consists of a piece of canvas, about 70 feet in length, and five feet in width. One end is secured by a strong wooden bar, of sufficient length to form a secure cross-bar, by its ends resting against the sides of the window-frame; and as soon as this is placed across, the canvas thrown down, and its lower end held by two or three men, the apparatus is in a fit condition for descent. It resembles a very long hammock, with one end let down, and is, in fact, nothing but a slide or inclined plane of canvas, from the window to the ground. About half-way down were two guide-ropes, attached laterally, and held by men, so as to prevent any accident, in case of high wind, from the canvas turning round. The apparatus was fixed to a window in the fourth

story of a building opposite the Exchange, in less than a minute. Mr Rose was the first to descend, and in about four minutes and a half sixteen individuals effected the descent with perfect ease and safety, some of them with children in their arms. The experiment was perfectly satisfactory, enough being done to show that if such an apparatus, which could not cost more than from £3 to £4, were kept in the upper floors of large hotels and inns, and of lofty mills and warehouses, it would afford ample means of escape in the event of the stairs being on fire, or otherwise impassable. [The disadvantage of this escape is its limited application. When flames are issuing from the window it would prove to be useless.]

ACCIDENT ON THE BRISTOL AND BIRMINGHAM RAILWAY.—There was a bad collision on this line on Thursday last: two trains, one from Gloucester and one from Birmingham, both going at great speed, met at Camp hill, and before the engines could be reversed they clashed together. The crash was frightful. One engine-man was seriously hurt, and thirty or forty passengers were more or less bruised; but no fatal result is apprehended. The departure of the Gloucester train before the arrival of the other is said to have been against orders; but an inquiry into the affair was to be instituted yesterday evening.

FATAL ACCIDENT ON THE NORTH MIDLAND RAILWAY AT DUFFIELD.—A fatal accident, which has plunged a respectable family into the deepest distress, occurred on Friday. It appears that a young man, who was employed as labourer on the North Midland railway, at Duffield, was returning to his work after dinner, and seeing a train coming on the down line, he stepped from that to the up line, whilst it passed. At the same moment the one o'clock, p.m., passenger-train was coming on the up line near to where he stood. The engineer blew his whistle, but the poor man, when he saw his danger, seemed quite confounded, and, before he could get off the line, the engine passed over him and killed him on the spot.

SHOCKING CASE OF SELF-DESTRUCTION.—A novel act of suicide occurred on the North Midland railway, near Leeds, on Wednesday morning last. As the seven o'clock Sowerby Bridge train approached the bridge over the railway at Hunslet, the stoker observed a man throw himself across the rails, and, before he had time to give notice of the circumstance to the engine driver, the whole train had passed over the poor fellow's body, which was afterwards picked up in a dreadfully mutilated state, and identified as that of John Sutcliffe, warehouseman, a married man residing at North Town end, Leeds. The head, the right leg, and the left arm, were entirely severed from the rest of the body. The train was proceeding at the regular speed at the time. It is supposed that the man, contemplating suicide, had got over the wall of the bridge, and having descended the railway embankment, had hid himself behind an abutment, in order that he might not be seen until it was too late to stop the train. Deceased has left a wife and seven children. A woman attempted suicide on the line by the same means only a few days ago, but was rescued by the plate-layers on the line.

RAILWAY ACCIDENT NEAR DOVER.—On Monday night, as an engine and tender were proceeding up the line towards Westenhanger, at between twelve and one o'clock, they came in contact with the down mail train, which was about to enter the station, and was crossing from the down to the up line, in consequence of the alterations on the down line not being completed. Both engines were much injured, and some of the metals torn up. Fortunately the passengers escaped with a few bruises, scratches, and disfigured garments. Assistance was immediately on the spot, and the mail train engine, not being so much injured as the other, took the train on to Dover. In order to prevent the recurrence of such a disaster, the down trains will, in future, discharge their freight at the proper platform instead of crossing the line.—*Dover Telegraph*.

FIVE LIVES LOST.—Three women and two children were drowned on Tuesday, in Plymouth Sound, by the capsizing of a boat in which they were returning from the surveying-ship Pandora, after taken leave of friends. Five men who manned the boat, and six women, were saved by clinging to it after it had overset.

THE LAW OF DEODANDS.—By the bill now before the House of Commons (which has passed the House of Lords), all deodands and forfeiture of chattels moving to or causing death are to be abolished from and after the 1st of September next.

Postscript.

Wednesday, July 2nd.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

THE CHARITABLE TRUSTS BILL was read a first time last night, and ordered to be read a second time on Monday next.

A new writ was ordered for Exeter in place of Sir W. Follet deceased.

ARMY ENLISTMENT.—Captain LAYARD moved that an humble address be presented to her Majesty, praying that she would be graciously pleased to direct inquiry to be made, how far the reduction of the period of service in the army, from the present unlimited term to ten years, would tend to procure a better class of recruits, diminish desertion, and thus add to the efficiency of the service. Mr SIDNEY HERBERT (Secretary at War), ascribed desertions to other causes than the lengthened period of service, and argued that the great improvement which, in recent years, had taken place, owing to the attention which was paid to the feelings, comfort, and respectability of the men, had rendered the service so generally

popular with the community, that no difficulty would be found in immediately raising twenty thousand additional troops. He, therefore, regarded the motion as unnecessary. Mr HUME, Sir HOWARD DOUGLAS, and Mr WILLIAMS, addressed some observations to the House, and Captain LAYARD having replied, his motion was negatived without a division.

PUBLIC EXECUTIONS.—Mr MONCKTON MILNES then called the attention of the House to the evils attendant on the present mode of conducting the public execution of criminals, his object being to obtain leave to bring in a bill authorising the judges, when they thought fit, to sanction executions within the walls of prisons. He supported his motion by reference to the example of several of the United States of America, and the progress of opinion in all civilised countries. While he was speaking, the House was "counted out."

IN THE HOUSE OF LORDS last night, Lord BROUGHAM, after a short discussion, consented to withdraw his proposed resolutions respecting railroads. The Public Museums bill was read a third time and passed. Several bills were also forwarded a stage, and their lordships then adjourned until to-morrow.

ABINGDON ELECTION, JULY 1.—Sir Frederick Thesiger, having been appointed attorney-general, arrived here last evening (before the writ was moved for in the House of Commons), and commenced canvassing to be re-elected. This morning, at half-past ten, Major-general Caulfield arrived on the liberal side; both parties are hard at work; and the Attorney-general will find that many of the electors will strenuously oppose his return.—*A Correspondent*.

MESSESS SMITH O'BRIEN AND JOHN O'CONNELL have, since their arrival in London to attend in their place in parliament, each received a letter from the Chairman of the Committee of Selection for Railway Committees, informing them that their names are on the list from which members will be selected to serve on committees. Their replies are published in the papers. They both absolutely decline attending, doubt the power of the House to compel them, and are prepared to abide the consequences of their refusal.

THE SUGARS OF CUBA AND PORTO RICO.—The correspondence between the Earl of Aberdeen and the Duke of Sotomayor, Spanish Ambassador, relative to the claim of the latter, that the sugars of the Spanish colonies should be admitted into England on the same terms as those of Venezuela and the United States, under the clause of an old treaty which provides that Spanish produce shall be admitted on the same terms as the most favoured nations. The Secretary for Foreign Affairs brings forward various facts and arguments to prove that the claim asserted on behalf of Spain has not, and ought not, to be extended to her colonies; and concludes by stating, "that her Majesty's government are unable to admit the claim which the Duke of Sotomayor has advanced for a reduction of the duties now levied upon sugar the produce of the Spanish West Indian colonies."

DEPARTURE OF MR KNIBB, MISSIONARY FOR JAMAICA.—An interesting valedictory meeting was held last night at Finsbury chapel, in consequence of the return of Mr Knibb to the scene of his labours, after two months' residence in England. He will sail from Southampton to-day, by the "Thames" steam-ship, followed by the prayers and good wishes of thousands of British Christians. We regret that want of space compels us to delay our report of the meeting till next week.

THE REPEAL ASSOCIATION held its weekly meeting on Monday, at the Conciliation hall, Dublin. A letter was read from Mr Steele, reporting satisfactory progress in his pacificatory mission to the north. He also states that he has been in Cavan, Enniskillen, Antrim, Belfast, &c., and that, in all those places, he has done the work of his "mission" without the slightest obstruction by deed or word. A letter was read from Mr O'Connell, dated London, reporting parliamentary progress. His visit had only convinced him more than ever of the necessity of repeal. Mr Denny called attention to the frightful state of the county of Cavan, and suggested that Mr O'Connell should be requested to come back to Ireland for the purpose of exerting himself to restore peace in the disturbed districts. Mr Crean announced the receipt of £60 from the repealers of St John's, New Brunswick. The amount of the week's rent was stated to be £382 11s. 3d.

INDIA AND CHINA.—Another Indian mail has arrived, having departed eleven days before its ordinary time, in order that it might escape the violence of the monsoon. It brings only eight days' later intelligence, which is destitute of interest. Sir Henry Hardinge was still at Calcutta, and, in spite of the heat, as active as ever in plans for the internal improvement of Bengal. From China no further advices had been received since the date of the last mail. The only article of news is the decision of the court-martial upon Colonel Wallace, who has been convicted of disobedience of orders, and sentenced to a suspension for six months from rank, pay, and allowances.

CORN MARKET. MARK LANE. THIS DAY.

	Wheat	Barley	Oats	Beans	Peas	Flour
English ..	1580					
Scotch						
Irish			9720			
Foreign ..	600	1450	950			

The market is firm, and prices have an upward tendency.

Notices to correspondents next week.

Terms for advertising in the *Nonconformist*.
For 7 lines....6s. 0d. | For 10 lines....6s. 0d.
For every additional line..... 4d.

Advertisements from the country must be accompanied by a post-office order, or reference for payment in London.

The Nonconformist.

LONDON: WEDNESDAY, JULY 2, 1845.

THE office of the *Nonconformist* is removed from 4, Crane court, Fleet street, to 3, Whitefriars street, Fleet street, where all communications for the Editor must be henceforth addressed.

SUMMARY.

PARLIAMENT is coming within sight of the close of the session, which, report says, is to terminate at an earlier period than usual, for the convenience of her Majesty's marine and continental excursions. There is a gallantry and a loyalty in this arrangement which precludes the possibility of censuring it with all the severity which might else be deemed reasonable. With the principle of it the people have a right to find fault—with the accidents attending it they will probably be not ill-pleased. It is rather too violent a stretch of official complaisance to make the legislative business of a great empire wait upon the convenience of any personage, however exalted. But as that business, during the present session, has been, in the main, prejudicial to liberty, both civil and religious, the sooner it is brought to a close the better. Of course, the measures remaining to be disposed of will be dispatched, as usual at this time of the year, with more haste than good speed. The season has just set in for smuggling offensive clauses into passing bills, and for giving wholesale sanction to government acts, without being at the trouble of scrutinising their purport. Oftentimes it is found that the sting of a parliamentary session is in its tail; and just when most men have concluded that they have seen the worst, some unlooked-for measure is dragged forward, and passed almost without remark.

Our summary of proceedings during the past week must be brief. We have elsewhere commented upon Mr Hutt's proposition, submitted to the House of Commons, on Tuesday se'nnight, for withdrawing our cruisers from the coast of Africa, and giving up the costly experiment, as a proved failure, of attempting to suppress the slave trade by force of arms. The battle of the gauges was renewed on Wednesday night, by Mr Cobden, who asked for, and obtained, a commission of inquiry, to investigate and pronounce judgment upon the respective merits and claims of the broad and narrow gauges, with the view to secure uniformity in railway lines throughout the country. To this it is evident we must come, sooner or later; and, considering the immense number of railway projects now before parliament, and the vast amount of pecuniary interests involved therein, the sooner the decision is arrived at the better for all parties. On Thursday, the House was occupied with the privilege question. Having consented to plead in the Court of Queen's Bench, and received an adverse judgment, it is now in what Brother Jonathan calls "a fix." Three courses were open to it, as Sir R. Peel would say. It might have resolutely asserted its own authority, and declared all resistance to it to be contempt; or it might have quietly succumbed to the opinion of the judges, and yielded without a struggle its high prerogatives; or it might dip again into the lottery of law, with rather a remote chance of a more favourable decision. It has taken the last course, which, if it turn out, as is most likely, unfortunate, will place the privileges of the House of Commons at the mercy of the judicial bench, and judge-made law will override the ancient powers of parliament, wrested from the crown by a most deadly struggle. We sympathise with Sir Thomas Wilde in this matter. To our mind, his speech on Thursday night exhausted the subject. But parliament is under the guidance of a vacillating chief, whose policy will land it at last in degradation.

On Friday, Mr Duncombe moved for a select committee to inquire into the inaccuracy of certain returns made by the Post-office to the House, and for inquiry into some abuses in the method of remunerating the servants by fees; a motion which was resisted by the government, and negatived by a majority of 106 to 30. Mr Wyse then moved an address to her Majesty, praying for the establishment and maintenance of a museum of national antiquities, which was also negatived. The House then went into a committee of supply, and Mr Williams, on the item of £3,240 for the ecclesiastical commissioners, urged the unfairness of taxing Dissenters for the purposes of the church. He was supported by Dr Bowring and Mr Redington, but to no purpose—the division being, for the vote, 61; against it, 19: majority 42.

The Irish Colleges bill went into committee on

Monday night, when Lord John Russell proposed, as amendments, the word "halls" among the buildings to be provided for by the grant—to vote the whole of the money in one sum, leaving the application of it to each college to be determined by circumstances—to vest the nomination of professors, after 1846, in the president, vice-president, and professors, of each college—and to insert the word "chaplain" before the bursars and librarians. The effect of these amendments, if acceded to, would have been to change the whole character of the measure, and convert it into another step towards the endowment of the Roman Catholic priesthood. The whig leader is showing himself. None can possibly mistake him. The tory government, in comparison with him and his clique, may be set down as friends of the voluntary principle, and were expressly charged as giving countenance to it, in all their arguments and proceedings, by the noble lord himself. Ah! is the voluntary principle so hateful to this ex-whig minister? To him we are indebted for poor-law chaplains. Will nothing content him but casting dirt at those who were once amongst his most forward supporters? Be it so. We are glad he now sails under his own colours. We rejoice, too, that he proposed this amendment; and every renewed discussion in the House of Commons, on the subject of government education, confirms the opinion to which we gave early utterance, that education is a matter unfit to be intrusted to the hands of any administration, and more likely to be spoiled than aided by their interposition on its behalf.

The Lords have passed the Scotch Banking bill and the Charitable Trusts bill, of which latter measure we have given an abstract in another column. They have, likewise, fallen foul of Lord Stanley's Tenant Compensation bill for Ireland, and pitched it into a select committee, from which, probably, it will not return in time to be passed into a law during the present session. A number of bills have received the royal assent, and, amongst them, that for the endowment of Maynooth college.

Several elections are on the eve of taking place. The deaths of Colonel Rushbrooke, Mr Somes, and Sir W. Follett, have created vacancies for West Suffolk, Dartmouth, and Exeter; and the promotion consequent upon the decease of the Attorney-general, will probably open Cambridge and Abingdon. The West Suffolk election will be the merest farce. The tenants-at-will, crippled on every hand by stringent covenants, and lying at the mercy of their landlords, can only vote as they are bidden. In every parish there is a standing electioneering committee, consisting of the parson, the clerk, one of the churchwardens, and usually both, to ply voters in behalf of the aristocracy. The boroughs are nearly as bad. There is little hope for us, except in an entire change of the representative system. The national mind is muffled by landlordism and priestism, and no sound will be permitted to escape it adverse to the interests of these two powerful parties. We can do little else than utter a protest against the crying injustice. The natural course of events will do the rest.

THE BEGINNING IS HALF THE BATTLE.

EXETER, Cambridge, Abingdon, Dartmouth—what is to be done with them? They are parliamentary boroughs—they are vacant, or, probably, will become so within a day or two—their last returns were tories—corruption is rife within every one of them—principles alone will not win them for reformers—what policy, therefore, should consistent Nonconformists adopt?

We answer in few words: Honesty to the truth they hold—honesty at any expense.

It is perfectly childish, it will be urged, to think of securing the return of a candidate at any one of these places, on anti-state-church principles. Very likely, we reply. Such being the case, it will be further contended, no prudent course remains to us, but to vote for the best man we can get. Aye! is it so? Is there no other alternative? Let us see—and if we can find one, let us examine whether it is not recommended by cogent arguments.

We shall suppose the registration of electors to have been greatly neglected, and the list, consequently, to be defective. We shall allow that time presses, and that no arrangements can now be made for putting out the whole Dissenting strength which these boroughs may contain. We shall admit the difficulty of finding a suitable candidate. We shall imagine that if one could be found and proposed, he would cut but a sorry figure upon the poll. We shall concede all this—more than this—and along with this concession we send forth the assertion, that the Dissenters of these towns can yet achieve a noble victory for their principles.

How may this be done? By means as simple as they will prove efficacious—by daring, under every conceivable temptation, to say, No!

To specious but spurious liberality—to local influence—to earnest solicitation—to ingenious argumentation—to passionate appeals—to smiles—to threats—to cajolery—to banter—they should have but one answer—No!

The "No" of a small minority will do more for

truth than the votes of a large one, or even the triumph of a majority. Tory, whig, radical, free-trader—be he what he may who asks a vote, if he falter on the question of state establishments, give him a resolute and unmistakable "No." This may be called wild counsel. Well! let us see whether prudence as well as earnestness may not urge much in its favour.

To begin with the lowest consideration. No great harm, basing our calculations even upon the commonest axioms of party, can result from such a course. At the worst, no positive addition will be made to the number of Sir Robert Peel's supporters in the House of Commons. The vacant seats were all occupied by tories, and therefore cannot, by any system of electoral warfare adopted by Nonconformists, be more degraded in July than they were in June.

But were every seat within reach of the liberals, they would be all but worthless, regard being had merely to the relative position of political parties. Eight votes more or less are of small importance where government has at command a majority consisting of a hundred-vote power, unless those votes should indicate a turn in the current of national feeling. In the present day, moreover, whigs, tories, and radicals are so thoroughly agreed in the main, that it would be hard to determine whether misgovernment would be most promoted by adding strength to Sir Robert Peel or to Lord John Russell—by reinforcing the cabinet or the opposition.

But every seat is not within reach of the liberals. All things considered, it is questionable if they can gain one. They are not likely to do it by fair means; for they will have to contend with all the arts of corruption, as well as against the force of ecclesiastical and aristocratic influence and dictation. Should Dissenters, therefore, consent to sink their own principles, the issue of the struggle, which will be only for barren laurels after all, is as doubtful as, in any case, it will be fruitless.

To the preceding elements of calculation must be added the proximity of a general election. The present returns will be only for two sessions at most, during the lapse of which none can reasonably anticipate any material change in the purposes and plans of government. The loss, therefore, if lost it can be called, which will accrue to the country from carrying our proposal into effect, may readily be computed, and, when summed up, it amounts to a scarcely appreciable fraction above nil.

Let us now, on the other hand, estimate the probable gain.

And, first, it would be the beginning of doing, where we have hitherto satisfied ourselves with talking. It would go far to convince the whole genus of dilettante politicians that, at length, Dissenters are in earnest. It would awaken as much apprehension as the first musket-shot in a great revolution. A vast amount of parliamentary insolence would immediately drop its tone of contemptuous defiance. We are laughed at now because we are not believed. Our paper resolutions have never yet come to anything. Hence, we are regarded in St Stephen's as an inflated pretence—imposing enough at first sight, but hollow, and full of wind, which the prick of any aristocrat can let out. Let them but see us acting for ourselves and our principles, irrespectively altogether of party, and their views of all that is involved in our claims will undergo a rapid change for the better. They can resist every argument but such as is leaved with electoral power.

The time, too, for adopting this bolder system of tactics, is most auspicious. Coming on the very heels of the anti-Maynooth agitation, the firmness of the present moment will give a moral dignity to our past proceedings, and will teach the legislature that the solemn and reiterated supplications of a million of people, are not to be trampled under parliamentary hoofs with impunity. Preceding by two years, probably, a general election, it will allow a sufficient intervening period for an active emendation of the register, for the choice of well-qualified candidates, and for unresolved representatives who tremble for their seats, to commit themselves to larger and more generous principles than they have heretofore professed.

And then, as an example, who can estimate its power? It will break the ice for the whole Dissenting community. It will suggest thoughts, and beget resolutions, and originate organisations, and promote inquiries and discussions, amongst borough electors, the beneficial influence of which upon the next election, would be felt in more ways, direct and indirect, than we can stay to specify. It would act with the force of a four-fold precedent. It would be as a foot-print unexpectedly lit upon in the desert. "Thus far," it would be said, "other men have gone before us, and thus far we may venture in the same track."

The considerations we have put forward are founded upon expediency. They may have their weight with some minds—they have but little, we are free to confess, with us. Our strongest inducement to advocate the policy we have indicated, is our deep sense of what is due to truth. There is a mode of holding sacred principles which exposes them to the contempt due only to our own indecision. There is a manner of bearing witness to the

faith which is in us, which is sure to tell against it, rather than in its favour. We are not fond of calculating chances, or of building duty upon expectations of success. To us it would appear sufficient to point Dissenters to the importance of the principles to which they owe allegiance—and to remind them that commercial reform, however desirable, must veil its pretensions before the spirituality of Christ's church. They are now summoned to do battle against state interference with religious faith and worship. They have no right to decline that contest. They may conquer, or they may fall—but whilst they live, and possess the franchise, they are bound to employ it faithfully in their Master's service. Perish party, and all its warping influences! He who would prove himself worthy of his principles, must put them foremost, and follow them to the end.

NATIONAL KNIGHT-ERRANTRY.

The fancy of John Bull is easily captivated by enterprises which enlist both his generosity and his combativeness. He loves to play protector to the defenceless; and his passion is enhanced, rather than cooled, by the distance of the objects about which his care is exercised—by the expense which the indulgence of his whim may cost him—and by the chance that it will involve him in some hard fighting. It is by such means that he tickles his own vanity into the pleasing belief that his virtue is only equaled by his courage. He has no great faith in providential laws; but his confidence in his own power to right what is wrong, and straighten what is crooked, in the world's ways, is unbounded. No failure, no succession of failures, can convince him that impossibilities are beyond his reach. Results which, to most minds, would prompt and ensure cessation of effort, he converts into arguments for perseverance. For plodding on in a wrong track, long after it has been proved to be a wrong one, he distances every competitor. No one follows a fiction with a more obstinate and immoveable faith in its reality than he.

The crusade against the slave-trade is a case in point. Originating, as no doubt it did, in right feeling, it has been carried on from year to year with untiring zeal, in spite of abundant and accumulating evidence that it is not only useless, but positively mischievous. That our rulers should insist upon the necessity of continuing this great, but unsuccessful experiment, is not surprising. They have other reasons than those which concern the welfare of the slave. A permanent naval establishment, larger by about one-third than would otherwise be required—active duty for officers who would else be pining ashore on half-pay—the systematic exercise of those qualities which fit our youthful aristocracy for posts of command—these and numerous collateral advantages will always go far to persuade cabinets, both *in esse* and *in posse*, of the moral obligation devolving upon them to persist in the attempt to crush the slave-trade by force of arms.

But the people of Great Britain might, surely, by this time, have dared to inquire what their knight-errantry has done to ameliorate the condition of the African race. What are the fruits of our armed interference? The number of men kidnapped from the western coast of Africa is now greater than ever—the horrors of the middle passage are aggravated—all the evils of the atrocious system are multiplied and rendered more intense. We are now on the eve of trying a more vigorous system—one from which our statesmen predict, as they always have done, the most flattering results, and which will probably end, as previous experiments of this kind have uniformly ended, in utter failure. The wisest course is that recommended by Mr Hutt on Tuesday se'n-night in the House of Commons:—Give up the project—recall your fleet—and leave the slave-trade to be put down by other means.

We have no doubt that many a benevolent heart will be shocked at the inhumanity of this proposal—and yet, we verily believe that it would turn out to be the most effectual movement ever yet adopted for putting an end to the cruel and abominable traffic. We think so for two reasons.

First, it is well known that Cuba and Brazil are already too densely crowded with a slave population for their own safety. They begin to be sensible of this. But were the cupidity of speculators unchecked by external restraints, both these countries would be compelled to adopt immediate and stringent measures with a view to prevent further importation—or the perils of successful insurrection would alarm them into preparation for entire emancipation. Excess of sin would bring with it its own punishment, and Providence, by its unerring laws, would prove a more efficient protector of the injured sons of Ham, than any confederation of civil powers placing its sole reliance upon a quick eye and a strong arm.

But, secondly, philanthropy would, in the case we have supposed, seek more legitimate means for accomplishing the object. Free labour is known to be cheaper in the long run than slave labour. Slavery and the slave-trade would be put down, not by arms, but by commercial and benevolent enterprise. Attention would be turned to the cheaper

production of sugar by improved methods of cultivation. Capital would be embarked in the attempt. Science would be brought to bear upon it. Monopoly would be destroyed, as the bane of our planters. Slave produce would be beaten out of the market. The slave-trade and slavery itself would become unprofitable—and then, of course, they would die a natural death. Our discriminating duties, our protection of the West India interest, and our employment of force in checking the slave-trade, tend materially to raise the price of tropical produce, and, therefore, to stimulate all the motives which prompt this diabolical traffic. We must triumph over it by other juster and more peaceable means than these. A great right was never yet purchased by a little wrong.

THE CHARITABLE TRUSTS BILL.

THIS bill, as amended in the committee of the Lords, and passed by them on Monday night, has just come into our hands. A brief description of it may, perhaps, be acceptable to our readers.

It is intitled "An Act for securing the due administration of Charitable Trusts in England and Wales." It gives power to the Lord Chancellor to appoint two masters in chancery, and a barrister-at-law of not less than ten years' standing, as "the commissioners of charities," and two inspectors; and to the commissioners, subject to the approbation of the Treasury, authority to appoint a secretary, clerks, messengers, and officers, at discretion.

The commissioners are to have jurisdiction in all cases of breach of trust, where the property does not exceed £100 a year, and may exercise it upon the petition, in writing, of any informant, or the report of any inspector. They may cite the parties charged with the breach before them, examine and determine matters summarily, and establish, with the consent of the special visitor, if any, any scheme for the application of the revenues of such trust, as to them shall seem fit, and that without appeal. They are also authorised to order sale, mortgage, or lease of land, rent-charges, &c., upon application from the trustees of any charity; to appoint new trustees, where such may now be appointed by the court of Chancery; to remove existing trustees for breach of trust, or neglect of duty; and to fill up vacancies occasioned by death. The office copy of order is to be sufficient evidence of the appointment of trustees, in whom estates may be vested for charitable purposes without conveyance. The trustees are to have the power of removing any school-master or mistress, or other officer of any charity, deemed to be negligent in the performance of duty; and where charitable funds cannot be applied as directed by the donor, the commissioners may settle a scheme for the application of it.

They are empowered to make regulations concerning the form and manner of the accounts to be kept and rendered; the returns to be made, and the vouchers to be produced; and to make inquiry, inspection, and examination into the administration of charitable trusts, as they may deem necessary; or to delegate that power to an inspector. They may transfer stock into the name of the Accountant-general, or pay charity-money into the Bank in his name; and will, thenceforth, be discharged from all liability in respect of the same. Penalties are awarded to all persons refusing to appear, or to be examined before the commissioners. Disobedient officers and trustees are liable to be removed. Trustees of church of England charities, or, in other words, all parochial trustees, are to make the following declaration:—"I do declare that I am really and *bonâ fide* a member of the united church of England and Ireland, as by law established." Charity receipts and expenditure are to be audited annually, and transmitted to the commissioners, who are required every three years to report to the crown. Deeds relating to charities are to be registered and kept in safe custody; and trustees are to be indemnified for all acts done by them under direction of the commissioners.

Such is the substance of the bill, as amended by the Lords. It will be seen that the objections taken to it by Dissenters, and especially by the committee of Deputies of the Three Denominations, remain untouched. We have reason to know that Lord Cottenham admitted, to the fullest extent, the justice of those objections. Easy as it would have been to except them from the operation of this act, no clause has been introduced for such a purpose. We take it, therefore, that they are to be included by deliberate design; and hence Dissenters will be under the necessity of contending shortly, not merely for an abstract principle, but *pro aris et focis*.

THE KING AND QUEEN OF THE BELGIANS are now on a visit to her Majesty, and the King of Holland is expected next week.

It is expected that her Majesty, accompanied by Prince Albert, and a distinguished retinue, will again honour the Isle of Wight with her presence, previous to the departure of the squadron from Spithead.

It is rumoured that the distinguished office of tutor to the Prince of Wales has been offered to the Rev. W. Carns, M.A.—*Church and State Gazette*.

THE QUEEN AND PRINCE ALBERT will leave England for the Continent, according to the present arrangements, very soon after the prorogation of parliament, which it is expected will take place, if not by the end of July, very early in the ensuing month. The Queen will be accompanied during her continental tour by the Earl of Aberdeen. Her Majesty will proceed to Ostend in the Royal Victoria and Albert yacht, and from thence to Brussels, as at present arranged, *en route* to Germany.—*Times*.

DEATH OF SIR WILLIAM FOLLETT, M.P.—Sir William Follett died on Saturday last, at 3 o'clock in the afternoon. The learned gentleman's health had been from his infancy extremely delicate, but during the last few months was especially the cause of unceasing anxiety to his numerous friends. Few men have had the good fortune to rise so rapidly in public life as the deceased gentleman, and still fewer have numbered amongst their friends so many of every shade of political opinion. He was born near Exeter in 1798, and in early life chose the bar as his profession. His success as an advocate led to his appointment in 1844 to the distinguished office of Attorney-general. Sir William Follett was returned in 1835, and 1844, as member for Exeter; he supported the present ministry as a moderate conservative, and, had his life been spared, was intended by them for the Lord Chancellor of England. The very first of medical skill was exerted on his behalf, and the greatest anxiety for his welfare prevailed amongst all classes. Lady Follett, who survives, is left with six children, the youngest but thirteen months of age. Sir William's history and his death in the prime of life are another striking confirmation of the record, "Man being in honour abideth not."

DEATH OF MR JOSEPH SOMES, M.P.—Mr Somes, the member for Dartmouth, expired on Wednesday, at his residence, Newgrove, Mile-end, after a very brief illness. He was the architect of his own fortune, and succeeded in accumulating great wealth, having left behind him, it is said, property to the amount of not less than two millions sterling. His principal pursuit was that of a ship-builder. His father was a waterman, and he himself was originally bound apprentice to the same calling. Mr Somes was chairman of the New Zealand Company, whose proceedings have lately been discussed at so much length in parliament. The immediate cause of Mr Somes's death is said to have been the simple circumstance of his having eaten a salad which disagreed with him. A similar case occurred at Sheffield only two weeks ago.

RAILWAY NOTABILIA.—The week's enumeration of new schemes embraces no fewer than 14. Amongst them may be mentioned the Birmingham and Oxford junction, which proposes to connect the north with the west of England; the Gloucester, Abergystwith, and Central Wales, with a capital of one million and a quarter; the Great Sicilian, to skirt the north-west coast of Sicily; the Bengal Great Western, 425 miles, from Calcutta to the interior; the Carlow and Kilkenny; the Manchester, Liverpool, and Great North of England; the Auxerre, a branch of the Paris and Lyons; the Bremen and Breitenhafen, 40 miles, from Bremen to the harbour on the Weser; the British Guiana, for connecting Demerara, Essequibo, and Berbice; the direct West of England, a broad gauge line from Reading and Newbury to Taunton; the Birmingham, Thame, and Buckingham; the Birmingham, Warwick, and Daventry Junction; the Swedish General; and the Regent's Canal line, from Paddington to Limehouse. The York and North Midland Railway company have resolved to erect a statue to Mr Stephenson, the engineer, on the bridge about to be erected over the Tyne, at Newcastle. When the Newcastle, and Berwick, and North British lines are completed, Mr Stephenson will have carried out the construction of an uninterrupted route of railway communication from London up to Edinburgh. There are now three projects for crossing the river Severn by railway—one on its bosom, one high in air, and one below the surface!

THE ASSIZES AND THE CIRCUITS.—The commission has made its report, and recommends—1. That the first assize in the year begin about the 11th of January. That the legal year stand thus:—November 2 to 25, Michaelmas term; Nov. 25 to Dec. 2, vacation; Dec. 2 to 23, Hilary term; Dec. 23 to April 25, vacation; and the rest of the year as at present. The commission could come to no conclusion as to a redistribution of the circuits, with a view more nearly to equalise the business, there being a difference of opinion among its members; but on the supposition that her Majesty might think it right to make a change, then the commission (with the exception of one member) suggested that Yorkshire should form a circuit of itself, and be taken by the judges of the Norfolk circuit, the bar of the Northern and Norfolk circuits attending the Yorkshire courts (a piece of cobbling which would render any new and better division of the country into circuits even more difficult than at present). The report is signed by Baron Parke, Justice Coleridge, and Mr Becket Denison (who are in favour of an immediate remodeling of the circuits); and by Justice Alderson, and Messrs Fitzroy Kelly, W. Whateley, John Greenwood, T. B. Estcourt, and Stuart Wortley (who think that no change, for the present at least, should be adopted). Mr Wortley is the commissioner who dissented from even the contingent recommendation of a change.

DEFENCE OF THE COAST.—Orders are, we understand, daily expected at this port to repair, erect, and arm with heavy guns of three miles' range, batteries on Drake's Island, Devil's Point, Plymouth Citadel, Redding Point, and at Staddon Heights.—*Plymouth Times*.

THE BISHOP OF CALCUTTA arrived at Southampton on Tuesday evening, in the *Liverpool*.

Imperial Parliament.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

PETITIONS FOR THE WEEK.

Agriculture, for relief of, 14.
 Colleges (Ireland) bill, against, 107.
 County Courts, for establishment of, 2.
 Education (Ireland), for removing restrictions on, 1.
 Factories, for restricting labour in, 30.
 Hill Coolies, against importation of, 2.
 Insolvent Debtors act, for repeal of, 2.
 Justices' Clerks bill, against, 1.
 Lord's Day, for the better observance of, 2.
 Maynooth College, against grant to, 2.
 Oaths, for abolition of, 2.
 Parochial Settlements bill, against, 3.
 Physic and Surgery bill, against, 7.
 for, 1.
 Public Houses, for diminishing the number of, 8.
 Punishment of Death, for abolition of, 2.
 Schoolmasters (Scotland), for ameliorating their condition, 2.
 St Asaph and Bangor Dioceses, against union of, 1.
 Universities (Scotland), for abolition of tests, 9.
 Union with Ireland, for repeal of, 1.

BILLS READ A FIRST TIME.

Deodands Abolition bill.
 Foreign Lotteries bill.
 Small Debts bill.

BILL READ A SECOND TIME.

Foreign Lotteries bill.

CONSIDERED IN COMMITTEE.

Lunatic Asylums bill.
 Dog Stealing bill.
 Smoke Prohibition bill.
 Scientific Societies bill.
 Merchant Seamen's bill.
 Bills of Exchange bill.
 Supply. £299,333, for barracks and great coats; £289,178, Ordnance offices, Tower and Pall Mall; £208,573, Ordnance and barrack establishments; £117,550, wages of labourers; £213,346, Ordnance stores; £488,483, Ordnance and barrack works; £62,753, scientific branch; £123,082, non-effective Ordnance services; £361,805, commissariat department; £47,328, half-pay, pensions, and allowances; £119,217, public buildings; £6,500, Palm house at Kew; £8,395, houses of Parliament, temporary; £85,000, new houses of Parliament; £14,000, Home office, Board of Trade, and Privy Council office; £3,836, Holyhead harbour, &c.; £50,000, Caledonian canal; £24,661, public buildings, &c., in Ireland; £9,000, Kingstown harbour; £39,350, houses of Parliament; £35,900, treasury; £17,400, Secretary of State, home department; £74,000, Secretary of State, foreign department; £21,000, Secretary of State, colonial department; £39,000, Privy Council office and office for trade; £2,000, Lord Privy Seal; £34,056, Paymaster-general; £15,919, Comptroller of the Exchequer, &c.; £2,630, State Paper office; £3,340, expenses of the ecclesiastical commissioners; £52,770, poor law commissioners; £52,383, Mint; £13,400, public records; £2,612, jewel office, Tower; £10,967, factories inspectors; £22,471, Chief Secretary Privy Council, Ireland; £5,018, Paymaster Civil Services, Ireland; £3,157, public works, Ireland; £321,588, printing and stationery; £4,950, printing proclamations, &c., Ireland.
 Colleges (Ireland) bill.

BILLS READ A THIRD TIME AND PASSED.

West India Islands Relief bill.
 Assessed Taxes Composition bill.
 Timber Ships bill.
 Labour (Scotland) bill.
 Dog Stealing bill.

DEBATES.

Thursday, June 26th.

PRIVILEGES OF THE HOUSE.

The SOLICITOR-GENERAL, in pursuance of the recommendation reported by the select committee on printed papers, moved, "That a writ of error be brought on the judgment of the Court of Queen's Bench pronounced in the case of *Howard v. Gossett*." He stated that the committee were not unanimous in that recommendation; it had been opposed by Sir Thomas Wilde and Mr Warburton, the supporters of the highest doctrines on the exercise of privilege, and by Sir Robert Inglis and Lord Mahon, supporters of the humblest submission to the courts of law. On the other hand, Lord John Russell and Sir Robert Peel, who on various occasions had made so decided a stand for the privileges of the House, acquiesced in the substance of the report. Sir Frederick entered into an explanation of the proceedings, beginning with the action instituted by Stockdale against Hansard, and bringing it down to the present suit of Howard, Stockdale's attorney, against the Sergeant-at-arms, for illegal arrest. In 1843, the House instructed the Sergeant-at-arms to plead, expecting that the privilege of the House would satisfy the court; but in that they were disappointed; and, after six months' consideration, the court decided against the validity of the plea. He would not attempt individually to censure that judgment; but this he must say, that so very contradictory were the reasons given by the different judges, that one could have been very successfully used as an argument against the other. One of the judges had expressed himself in a tone and manner which, considering that he read a written judgment which had been six months in preparation, was scarcely to be excused. The last debate on this subject clearly exhibited the impossibility of adopting the recommendations of Mr Hume. That was the time, if the House was determined to exercise its privileges with a strong hand, for it to have taken its stand, and it was now too late for it to take any such course. The only question, then, which the House had to consider was, whether under the present circumstances, it was advisable to, submit patiently and silently to the judgment of the court of Queen's Bench, as was recommended by Sir R. Inglis and those who followed him. Now, he could not submit patiently to the recent decision of that court. He thought that it would be advisable to have the opinion of the other judges, to elucidate the case; and if the decision on the writ of error should be unfavourable, the House might then take ulterior steps to assert their privileges. It was absolutely necessary to do something, for three other

actions were pending; in one the damages were laid at £100,000, and in a recent case a jury had assessed the full damages claimed.

Mr HUME submitted that the House ought to take a decided course at once, either by vindicating or abandoning its privileges. He would, therefore, move as an amendment, "That it is inexpedient to entrust the maintenance of the privileges of the House to any other authority than the House itself." If he carried that motion, he would be prepared to follow it up in a decisive manner.

The House then divided, when there appeared, for the amendment, ayes, 46; noes, 78: majority, 32.

The amendment having been lost, Mr ROEBUCK then proceeded to the consideration of this question—whether the course pursued by the Solicitor-general was the best that could be adopted. In plain English, the Solicitor-general had said—"We put no faith in the law of the court of Queen's Bench; let us try another chance, and go to a court of error, and see whether we cannot reverse it." But what if the court of error confirmed the judgment of the court of Queen's Bench? Then the House would be placed in the same position as at present, with this additional difficulty, that all the judges would have declared against it. He denied that the Speaker had issued any warrant in this case. It was called a warrant; but he denied that it was one; and, moreover, if it was one, he asserted that the House ought not to allow the court of Queen's Bench to inquire why we called on A B to appear at the bar, and to submit to examination. If it were allowed to break down the privileges of the House of Commons in that respect, it might proceed in like manner to break down other privileges. The House was now unquestionably in a scrape; and it would be better for it to confess at once that it had made a mistake in its past course of proceeding, than to go on in a pettifoggery attempt to obtain a different verdict from the fifteen judges. Let the £200 odd levied in this case go by the board; but in the other three actions which have been commenced let the House assert at once its privileges:—

Let them allow no party to proceed in any one of the other actions that had been brought, and declare their intention to protect their privileges in future. The hon. member (Sir Robert Inglis) shook his head, as a sign, he supposed, that he was not prepared to go that length. But he would put this case. He would suppose that the court of error should give judgment against them, and then he would ask his honourable friend what course he would recommend. How were they to stave off the mischief which would then come upon them? They might have the decision of the court of error against them, as the judgment of the court of Queen's Bench now was, and how were they then to get out of their difficulty without adopting those strong measures [hear, hear]? He had a very decided feeling about the manner in which the judges of the land had ever dealt with the privileges and liberties of the people [hear, hear]. He would make bold to say that it was not in the court of Queen's Bench the liberties of the people of England had been fought and gained. Those liberties had been achieved in another place, and it was in that other place that he would still have them defended. The Commons of England attained the right and privileges of the commonality of this realm, and on them, as the successors of the Commons of England, ought still to rest the great privilege, when they should be assailed, no matter by what party, of defending the liberties of this country [hear].

Sir ROBERT INGLIS agreed that there must soon be a final decision on the dispute; but he opposed the privileges claimed by the House as dangerous to the liberties of the people—asked if it could be pretended that the House of Commons had the power of suspending the Habeas Corpus act?—and recommended, as the only means of escaping from the difficulty, the simple remedy of legislation. Sir ROBERT read a series of resolutions setting forth his views; but the SPEAKER decided against them, as an amendment, on a point of form.

Mr B. ESCOTT warmly supported the motion of the Solicitor-general.

Mr Sergeant MURPHY opposed it, regretting the little interest manifested in so vital a question. He was not surprised that the country did not take a deep interest in the preservation of the privileges of the House of Commons, when the members of the House itself, if he might judge from the thinness of the present attendance, took so little interest in it themselves. He, therefore, called upon Sir R. Peel to adopt the language of Mr Roebuck, and say, "We will allow this verdict to pass by. From the respect which we bear to the court of Queen's Bench, we will not enter into any collision with it on the present case; but we declare, that, in future, we will come into collision with any court which dares to question our privileges."

Lord MAHON supported the argument of Sir R. Inglis. He contended that the Speaker's warrant was incomplete and informal; and, therefore, constituted as bad a ground for defence as if a man were to defend his title with a flaw in his deed. He quoted a passage from Mr Macaulay's writings, stating that the privileges of the House of Commons, which, in 1642, the people rose in arms to defend, had now [in 1828] "become nearly as odious as the worst rigours of martial law."

Mr CHARLES WYNN supported the original motion. He said that he had acquiesced most unwillingly in referring the matter to the law courts; but that now he thought they could not but let it be brought to its conclusion.

Lord JOHN RUSSELL also supported the motion. The law and custom of parliament, he insisted, were as much the law of the land as the common law: the House was the judge, and the sole judge, of that law and that custom; and, therefore, he protested against the opinions of those who had the presumption to say that they were setting themselves up against the law, and were deciding cases according to their own arbitrary will and caprice. He showed

that it was necessary, for the purposes of public inquiry, that the House should have the power of bringing whom they pleased before them; and maintained that the province of the House transcends that of the law courts. Lord ERSKINE said, erroneously, that the House could not impeach except where an indictment could lie; but how could questions such as those which regarded Lord Oxford and Lord Bolingbroke, Lord Somers and the balance of power, or Warren Hastings and his administration in India, have been made subjects of an indictment? An ultimate responsibility must rest somewhere; it evidently does not rest with the judges, for they are removable on an address from parliament to the crown. That ultimate power, therefore, lies with parliament; and the check upon it is the suffrages of the people, who elect the Commons, and can displace the members at a general election. He repudiated the small and technical grounds on which the judges disallowed the Speaker's warrant. He had no doubt that the House, in conjunction with the executive government, had the power to make the judges, or any other body of men, comply with their orders, even by means of a military force.

Sir, I say it is necessary for public purposes, and is of great benefit to the country, that we should have this power; and, after all, when we are told that this is an arbitrary power—that it is making the House of Commons supreme, and establishing its will and caprice—I say, with respect to this question, as with respect to other questions with regard to which powers are to be exercised, there must be some authority with whom the absolute discretion must rest. In the conscientious exercise of its own powers, the court of Queen's Bench is supreme—in the exercise of its own powers the court of Chancery is supreme; but suppose cases of abuse to arise—for I will not shrink from that question—where does the constitution vest the ultimate power? Is it in the judges of the Queen's Bench, or of the courts of common law? Certainly not; for there are laws which provide that the judges may be removed by address of both houses of parliament. Therefore, it is not in them that the constitution vests the ultimate and irresponsible power. Where, then, is it vested? Why, where the public safety is concerned, for the immediate purpose for which the exercise of that power which is necessary for the public safety, the power is vested in this House for that purpose.

The noble lord showed that in case of resistance the House had the power to address the Crown to assist its sergeant-at-arms to carry its warrant into execution with a military force if necessary; and it was lamentable that judges should have treated the warrant of the House of Commons in such a manner as compelled its members to hint at the possibility of supporting it with military force. He was for taking all moderate courses at present. He might be taunted as pusillanimous in recommending them, and as endangering thereby the privileges of the House; but in its final course he thought that the House could not part with those privileges, which were necessary to its existence, and without which its existence would rather be an evil than a good.

Mr FITZROY KELLY (who did not vote either way) devoted his speech to an energetic assertion of the right of the law courts to decide—not on the privilege of parliament, for that did not come in question—but on the sufficiency of the warrant; and to a defence of himself for having taken a brief as counsel against the House of Commons. He reminded the House that questions of arrest and imprisonment arising out of its proceedings had often come before the court of Queen's Bench; and he defied any one to prove that the court had ever disallowed a privilege claimed by the House. He also reminded the House that its power only lasts during the session; that, in spite of any declaration of breach of privilege, the plaintiffs in the three other actions would proceed behind the scenes, would not enter judgment till after the recess, and one might possibly recover the half of his £100,000 by levying on the goods of the Speaker or his officers, in defiance of the House; what would be done then?

Sir T. WILDE was not surprised that Mr F. Kelly should have taken the course he had done; for it was perfectly consistent with the position in which he stood. He insisted that when members were elected by their constituents to maintain the powers and privileges of the Commons of England, it was not competent for one of them to impugn and destroy them. Mr F. Kelly had said that he would not give any opinion on the judgment of the court of Queen's Bench. Considering his great talents, the House had a right to insist upon having the benefit of his opinion on that judgment; but Mr F. Kelly had disqualified himself from giving an opinion upon it, because, as counsel for the plaintiff, he could not impugn his own argument, which had been so successful with the judges. He then entered into a long argument to prove that it would be easier to find a better than a worse course than that which the Solicitor-general had suggested. That course must be recommended with an ultimate view to legislation; but effectual legislation on a point like the present was impossible. The House had been warned of the deficiency of its power. If that were true, then the House ought to do nothing which could impair it; and its only mode of maintaining its authority was by vindicating its privileges. When would they awake to the danger of their position? Their power of commitment—the very form of their warrant—had been examined and questioned in a court of law. Now, when their privileges were attacked, and judgment was pronounced against them, were they not in a situation to act? He was sure they would never be in a better situation for action. Mr F. Kelly had told them that their privileges were not essentially involved in this action. Let the House not be deceived—they were vitally involved in it. The House was in a position of difficulty. What had brought it into that position? Its own vacillation, its own abandonment of the

constitutional functions with which it was entrusted. Had those functions been defeated? No, they had never been tried. They had not been tried now—they were not tried in the case of the sheriffs. Instead of that, the House had injured the authority of parliament by legislating, and had let the courts of law in to make decisions upon their privileges, which had brought them into the utmost jeopardy. He called on the House to confess its error, to retrace its steps, and not to persist in a course of blunders merely to preserve its consistency. We ought to say at once that we had done wrong in pleading to the action, and that that step had led to a decision in a court of law dangerous to our privileges. We might likewise state that we would not proceed further against Mr Howard and his advisers, because it might be possible that he had proceeded with the action because we appeared and pleaded to it. We might then rescind the resolution of the House, ordering the Attorney-general to appear and plead to the other three actions, and might pass another, declaring that the further prosecution of those actions would be a breach of our privileges, and would be signally punished as such. He would not make a substantive motion to that effect, because he had no reasonable ground to think that the House would adopt it. Indeed, he would not on any occasion call upon the House to adopt such a resolution unless it weighed it well previously, and were determined to abide by the consequences. After criticising at great length the past proceedings of the House of Commons and the courts of law, he proceeded to observe that there was not a word in the report which justified the House in suing out a writ of error:—

Surely no man who knew the theory of the constitution, and valued it in its present state, would think of bringing a writ of error to vindicate the privileges of the Commons in the House of Lords. Whether that was proposed to be done he knew not, but, to use an old expression, in the name of safety he would declare that that was what ought not to be done. What was the principle that would be established? The destruction of their privileges—the destruction of their independence [cheers]. They would have formed a precedent of the most mischievous kind. If the judgment were reversed, what was the effect? There it would stand, that, upon the court of Queen's Bench having decided against their privileges, they (the House of Commons) applied to another court of law, which had decided with them. But then, the judgment might be reversed; not upon the ground that the court of Queen's Bench had done wrong in inquiring into the warrant, but that the warrant was a good warrant, even if it had been issued by a magistrate [hear, hear]. And he strongly suspected that, if the judgment were reversed at all, that might be the ground of reversal [hear, hear]. For, if the judges could possibly ride off upon that view of the question, nothing would be more likely than that they would so elude pronouncing upon the more delicate and difficult point involving the privileges of that House, from a dislike to deal with it [hear, hear]. But one thing was certain: that House would never get out of the Exchequer chamber without some of the judges throwing out opinions adverse to privileges, and thus the House would incur damage by the proceeding. He had before taken the liberty of warning the House, and now, at the hazard of great responsibility, he told them that, when they went back from the Exchequer chamber, it would be only to regret that they had ever gone there [cheers]. The House had taken one wrong step, but no man ever heard that that was the reason for taking a second.

Sir ROBERT PEEL contended for the inherent right of the House of Commons to determine their own privileges, but thought that the House ought not to proceed to extreme measures before they were sure of having the public mind on their side. Therefore, he advised that the recommendation of the committee should be fulfilled: and there were matters in the statements of the judges, especially in those of Mr Justice Wightman and Lord Denman, which led him to hope that their judgment was not without appeal. At all events, he would not proceed against subordinates. By now taking a prudent course, the necessity for extreme measures might be averted:—

I am not saying that the time may not come when no other alternative may not be left us but to put these means into practice. I think it would be better to do so than relinquish the privileges essential to the House of Commons. But, before you do so, you must have exhausted every other means, and have the country with you. Those other means are not yet exhausted. I think the judgment of the court of Queen's Bench is inconsistent with reason and former decisions. In case the decision of the court of Queen's Bench is affirmed, there remains a last and extreme measure; but, before I appeal to that, I would exhaust every other, the adoption of which would not compromise the authority of this House.

On a division, Sir Frederick Thesiger's motion was affirmed, by 82 to 48: majority, 34.

Friday, June 27th.

THE POST OFFICE.

On the motion for going into a committee of supply, Mr THOMAS DUNCOMBE advanced some complaints against the Post office administration. He adverted to the inaccuracy of certain returns; expressing his fear that the errors were not accidental, but intended to mislead the public. He pointed out some abuses in the method of remunerating the servants, by fees, &c.; especially the "early delivery" in the City, for which an additional fee is demanded, though all the letters might be delivered sooner in the morning. A person in Stamford street received his letter by the ordinary delivery sooner than he did in Fleet street by the "early delivery." He charged Mr Kelly, the inspector of letter-carriers, with making a "job" of the *Post-office Directory*, using the letter-carriers for his private profit, and thus increasing his salary from £1,200 to £8,000; and he objected to inadequate remuneration of the letter-carriers. Finally, he moved for a select committee to inquire into these matters.

The motion having been seconded by Captain PEACHELL.

Mr HUME begged to remind the House that, seven years ago, he had urged upon them the expediency of doing away with fees in all departments of the state, and, with the exception of the Post office, they were now nearly abolished.

Mr CARDWELL opposed the motion. He denied that the *Post-office Directory* was a "job," or compiled in a way injurious to the public; he defended the "early delivery" as generally approved of by the mercantile body; and he could not consent to augment the salaries, as it would increase the public cost without corresponding advantage. There was no wish in the establishment to continue the system of fees and gratuities longer than was absolutely necessary, and until the arrangements could be made.

Mr F. BARING did not think the printing of the *Post-office Directory* could be fairly termed a "job," but he thought some more desirable arrangement might be come to.

On a division, the motion of Mr Duncombe was negatived by 106 to 30.

MUSEUM OF NATIONAL ANTIQUITIES.

Mr WYSE then moved an address to her Majesty, praying her to be graciously pleased to give directions for the establishment and maintenance of a museum of national antiquities in conjunction with a commission for the conservation of national monuments. He supported his motion by giving the House an elaborate account of the efforts which had been made in France, Belgium, Bavaria, and other parts of Germany, for the purpose of rescuing from oblivion the early records of their literary, religious, monumental, and national history. Strangers who arrived in this country were surprised at finding that we had made no national effort for the same object, and sometimes expressed their surprise in terms which ought to make Englishmen blush for their extraordinary neglect.

Mr HAWES seconded the amendment, and Mr BERNAL suggested the propriety of extending it not only to the conservation of historical relics, but also to that of all antiquities of a similar date.

The CHANCELLOR of the EXCHEQUER briefly explained the reasons why he could not consent to the proposed address, and said that, though we had not in England any national museum for the reception of such works of art as Mr Wyse wished to protect from oblivion, the galleries of our nobility and gentry—to which there was, in general, easy access—were more crowded with them than the galleries of any other country in the world.

After a few remarks from Mr P. BORTHWICK, on the necessity of protecting the arts and their monuments in this country, the motion was negatived without a division.

SUPPLY.

The House then went into committee of supply on the ordinance estimates, Mr Greene in the chair.

On the first vote, of £239,330 for the ordinance and commissariat department, being proposed, Mr WILLIAMS took objection to the increase that had been proposed in the artillery, and hoped some explanation would be given; they were at present in the midst of profound peace, and yet every year some addition was made to the amount of these votes. Sir H. DOUGLAS referred to the services which were rendered by the horse artillery during the Peninsular war, and maintained that it was the best economy to have all the departments of the service in the highest state of efficiency. After some remarks from Captain BOLDERO, the vote was agreed to.

On the vote of £112,217 for new works and repairs of public buildings, Mr BERNAL called the attention of Sir R. Peel to the want of judgment that had been lately exhibited in the purchase of pictures for the National Gallery, and instanced the case of a picture ascribed to Holbein, for which £600 had been given, which he understood had since been ascertained not to be the work of Holbein at all, and not worth more than £40. Sir R. PEEL said the trustees had been urged by him to observe the greatest caution in the purchase of pictures. The statement respecting the Holbein lately purchased was so far correct that doubts had been thrown on its genuineness, and a correspondence was going on with the party, which had not yet terminated. He would observe, that in this case no guarantee had been given, and the trustees were at present discussing the propriety of calling in artists of eminence before making any purchase of consequence. Dr BOWRING inquired whether it was intended to make any improvement in the external appearance of the National Gallery? Sir R. PEEL feared that any external improvement would not meet the objections to the present building [hear, hear]. He admitted that the site had not been turned to the best account, but he feared any alterations in the dome or the turret by which it was lighted, would not remedy the existing defects. The vote was then agreed to.

On the vote of £85,395, for providing temporary accommodation for the houses of parliament, committee rooms, residence for the Speaker, &c., some conversation arose on the bad ventilation of the Houses and the committee rooms. Mr HUTT complained of the state of the committee rooms, and said that the members who attended day after day to their duties ought to have some protection from the dangerous state in which imperfect ventilation left the committee rooms. Sir R. PEEL admitted the justice of the hon. member's claim on the government to provide adequate accommodation for members whilst engaged in close attention to their duties. An hon. Member stated that the ventilation in the committee room in which he had served was so imperfect and badly managed, that whilst his and other hon. members' legs felt as if they were immersed in

ice pails, their heads and their upper extremities were in a state of fever. The vote was then agreed to.

£3,240 was next proposed for the ecclesiastical commissioners. Mr WILLIAMS objected to the vote. It is not fair to tax the Dissenters for the purposes of the church, which was rich enough to pay its own expenses. The CHANCELLOR of the EXCHEQUER replied, the church paid its own expenses; but the commission being appointed by act of parliament, such additional expenses, the consequences of the commission, were defrayed by the state. Dr BOWRING supported the objection of the honourable member for Coventry. Mr LIDDELL said, as the labours of the commission were for the public benefit, it was proper the public should bear the expense. Mr REDINGTON thought the expenses of this commission should be paid out of the money in their hands before they applied any of the funds to the purposes of new endowments. While they had money in their hands they ought not to come to parliament to vote their expenses out of the public purse. The committee then divided, and the numbers were—for the vote, 61; against it, 19: majority, 42. The vote was then agreed to.

Several other votes were afterwards taken, and the House then resumed, and adjourned till Monday.

Monday, June 30th.

IRISH COLLEGES BILL.

Mr J. O'CONNELL presented a number of petitions signed by upwards of 300,000 persons against this measure. On the motion for going into committee,

Mr SMITH O'BRIEN observed, that if he entertained any hope of being able to amend this bill, he would propose a series of amendments for that object; but, as he had no hopes of succeeding in any attempt to modify the bill, he would state his objections to it in detail. It made no provision for the religious instruction of any class, either Roman Catholic or Protestant. It had, therefore, been declared by the Roman Catholic hierarchy to be dangerous to faith and morals. It was also calculated to produce a large field for the exercise of corrupt influence for party purposes, and was, therefore, particularly objectionable to the friends of free institutions in Ireland.

Sir J. GRAHAM said, that he should consider it a waste of time to enter into a defence of the general outlines of the bill, after the ample discussion which had taken place upon them on several former occasions. The diffusion of general intelligence was the best guardian against the exercise of any corrupt influence on the public mind in Ireland.

Mr O'CONNELL informed the House, on the authority of a letter from Archbishop M'Hale, that the alteration which the government had agreed to make in this bill, had made no alteration in the sentiments of the Roman Catholic prelates respecting it. Their objections to it still remained in full force; and Archbishop M'Hale even went the length of denouncing it as penal and revolting. His (Mr O'Connell's) objection to this bill still was, that it was an irreligious bill. The provision for the establishment of halls would have this effect—that, as the Protestants were the wealthiest class in Ireland, there would be four or five halls for Protestants to one for Catholics. The true plan would be for the government to build the halls, and thus obviate the jealousies which would inevitably be created. Let them endow all sects with the means of religious instruction within the colleges, and thus place all on the same level.

Lord J. RUSSELL considered the declaration just made to the House by Mr O'Connell very important. He feared that unless this bill were made acceptable to the Roman Catholic prelates, it would not be of much use to Ireland. If the bill, after it came out of committee, should still remain under their stigma, it would be better not to send it to that country; for in such a case it would rather be prejudicial than beneficial in its consequences. Unless Government consented to further alterations, it would be a question open to serious consideration whether it ought to be supported on its third reading.

The Speaker then left the chair, and the House resolved itself into the proposed committee.

In the committee considerable discussion took place on the first clause, empowering the Commissioners of the Treasury to pay from the Consolidated Fund such sum of money as shall be needed for purchasing lands, tenements, and hereditaments, for the use of these new colleges, and for the "necessary buildings with the appurtenances thereof," and for establishing and furnishing the same, not exceeding £33,333 6s. 8d. for each such college, and not exceeding £100,000 in the whole.

Lord JOHN RUSSELL proposed, as an amendment, to add, after the few words which we have enclosed in inverted commas, the words "including the building of the halls hereinafter mentioned for the reception of students." He likewise proposed to omit the words which divided the grant of £100,000 equally between the three proposed new colleges, in order to enable government to expend on any one of them a sum proportionate to its wants, be it more or less than £33,333 6s. 8d.

Sir J. GRAHAM, on the part of the government, declared that it could not assent to either of these amendments.

Upon the issue thus joined between the two parties in the House, the question of separate or mixed religious or secular education was again raised, and strenuously debated. The clause was supported by Sir R. PEEL, Mr SPAW, Mr C. BULLER, Mr ROEBUCK, and Mr S. CRAWFORD; Lord John Russell's amendment by Mr WYSE, Mr VERNON SMITH, Mr SERGEANT MURPHY, Sir R. INGLIS and Mr SHELL. Sir ROBERT PEEL said:—

He was most anxious to have the co-operation of the Catholic hierarchy in carrying out this bill, and he trusted that they ultimately would have it. Was it not

reasonable to say to the Protestants, the Presbyterians, and the Catholics, You being the parents and guardians of the young persons to be instructed in those halls, it is for you to endow professorships for religious instruction in those halls, in conformity with your respective creeds. If they now began to endow chairs for religious instruction in those halls by the state, they would soon get involved in inextricable difficulties.

He made several objections to the system of education at Oxford and Cambridge:—

He thought it consistent with true friendship for that institution for him to state that, at the university of Oxford, the expense of education [hear] was so great as materially to lessen the benefit that might be derived from it [hear, hear]. He wished that some system could be adopted which would extend the advantages of academic education at the two universities of Oxford and Cambridge to classes which were now excluded on account of expense [hear, hear]. He could not help adding that, in his opinion, the laxity of discipline which prevailed in some of the colleges constituted, in his mind, a great objection to the system of education at the universities [hear, hear].

LORD JOHN RUSSELL considered that it was expedient, that if the students were Catholics, there should be Catholic chaplains to instruct them in their religious faith; and, after passing the Maynooth bill, he could not understand why that should not be done by the state.

MR C. BULLER approved of the bill, but thought our English system did not afford a good example of the policy of uniting religious with secular education:—

The system of education pursued at our English universities, as far as regarded the religious part, did not appear to him by any means such as should be introduced in any new establishment. The compulsory attendance at chapels there acted upon was especially injudicious and mischievous in its effects. It was regarded as a sort of punishment, not merely by the young men, but by the authorities, for he remembered the case of a student at Cambridge, who, for reading a novel in chapel, was sentenced to attend morning and evening lecture for the rest of the term [hear, hear]. Our universities presented the very reverse of examples of religious and moral training; he verily believed that if you could ascertain the statistics of debauchery of all existing colleges, those of Cambridge and Oxford would exhibit a worse aggregate than all the other universities and colleges of Europe put together.

MR SHELL wished to know why government refused to provide religious education at these colleges for the Catholics. They paid Roman Catholic chaplains in military hospitals in Ireland. They paid the Catholic chaplains for attending barracks, gaols, and workhouses in Ireland; and in the name of consistency he would ask, what reason was it which induced them not to pay a Roman Catholic chaplain in places where, in consequence of secular instruction being daily imparted to youth, religious instruction was, on that account, the more peculiarly required. They (the ministerialists) were constantly intimating their willingness to pay the Catholic priests, and it was constantly hinted that, as a settlement of the Catholic church, that would be an object of paramount importance. In fact, the Secretary of State for the Home Department stated that it was a mistake to say that he had voted with Lord Francis Egerton in 1825, when the proposition was carried by a majority of 43, as he was not then in the house, but he said he should have voted in favour of the payment of the Catholic clergy, if he had been in the house on that occasion. They said that the Catholics did not like that proposition—be it so: but how was it consistent with the intimations which they had given, that when the Catholic bishops asked them to appoint chaplains to those institutions, they refused the smallest pittance? that was the policy which they had adopted towards Ireland, and if they acted in that manner from fear of the prejudices of the English people, this, instead of being "a message of peace," would but add to the long catalogue of frustrations which had characterised their government of his country [hear, hear].

SIR J. GRAHAM reiterated his opinions with regard to the endowment of the Roman Catholics:—

He must own that personally he should have no scruple on religious grounds, or with reference to religious feelings, to the support of such a grant if brought forward. It must therefore be quite clear to the right honourable gentleman that, in objecting to the appointment of chaplains, he (Sir James Graham) was not disposed to be swayed by the principle of servile submission to what the right honourable gentleman would call the bigoted feeling of the Protestants of England or Scotland.

But he thought the appointment of chaplains to these colleges would destroy every hope and prospect of the usefulness of these institutions:—

He thought that if you admitted the propriety of appointing even in the south of Ireland Roman Catholic chaplains for Catholic students, you must in justice, still more in policy, appoint for the Protestant students Protestant chaplains, Presbyterian chaplains for Presbyterian pupils, and if there were Unitarian Presbyterians, a Unitarian chaplain. Nay, he did not know whether, if there were Jews, it would not be necessary to appoint a Rabbi for their education. All these religious teachers would have to be paid by the state; and not only must there be separate chaplains, but also separate places of worship for the professors of the different creeds. He conceived that so far from such a scheme of mixed education mitigating or abating religious differences, it would tend materially to foment and aggravate them—it would be "chaos worse confounded"—and, instead of mitigating religious differences, no course could possibly be devised which would more certainly and more inevitably increase them. He had thus, without concealment, frankly stated his objections to the plan proposed on the other side. It was directly opposed to the principle of the bill; that, however, was a minor objection, as the bill might be rejected; but so strongly was it opposed to the principle of the bill, that he considered it most objectionable, if religious peace were the object in view—unsound in principle, fatal in its effects—and a more impolitic scheme, with all deference to the noble lord, he could not conceive.

MR ROEBUCK followed on the same side:—

He voted for the college of Maynooth on a totally distinct set of principles from the principles upon which he was called upon to support this amendment. He voted for that college in spite of its religion, and not in consequence of it. He found certain circumstances to exist in the condition of Ireland which called upon the government to interfere for the instruction of the pastors of the people. This, however, was a distinct and separate consideration. Here he had to administer education to the great body of the people. If, indeed, the whole country, England, Scotland, Ireland, and Wales, were happily of one faith, there would be no difficulty in the way. But differences of creed had sprung up, would increase, and they could not diminish them, they could not well control them, and it was particularly impossible for them to educate all of them. Being, therefore, unable to educate all of them, the necessary and honest conclusion was, that they could not interfere in this great question, that they should confer such education upon the people as they could, without militating against the communication of religious instruction which each sect might choose to impart to those within its pale. They should allow, and proposed so to do, each sect to teach religion within the college which they sought to erect.

LORD JOHN RUSSELL must say that the bill of the government tallied in all its provisions with the opinions and predilections of the honourable and learned gentleman. He thought that the principle advanced by Mr Roebuck went at once to the destruction of endowments for religious purposes. It went to the destruction of religious establishments. He would say the same as to what had fallen from the right hon. gentleman the Home Secretary. The right hon. gentleman thought that it would be unjust to favour one sect only in the proposed colleges, and that, if they attempted to provide for all, they would be involved in the greatest confusion. These were the arguments always used by the advocates of the voluntary system. It was new to him to hear arguments of that nature from the treasury bench—arguments which went to the root of all religious establishments. The amendment went, to some extent, to the promotion of religious as well as secular education. If the committee rejected it because such was its tendency, because the probability was that religious education would be furthered by it, it would, of course, reject any proposition for the nomination of chaplains. If all the amendments which he was ready to propose were adopted, the bill would be materially altered. It would, however, be altered for the better, and would be more in harmony with the people of Ireland. If the committee refused to adopt this amendment, he would not think of pressing that which referred to the nomination of chaplains.

After a few words from Sir H. INGLIS, MR SHARMAN CRAWFORD said that he felt jealous of the interference, on the part of the clergy of any persuasion, with secular education. He was opposed to the clergy of his own church doing so, and would never consent that the clergy of other denominations should have the power of interference. He would oppose the amendment of the noble lord.

The committee then divided, and the numbers were—for the amendment, 42; against it, 117: majority against the amendment, 75.

The first clause was then agreed to. Some slight amendments were made in the intermediate clauses, but nothing of any importance occurred until the committee arrived at the 10th clause, which makes her Majesty the visitor of the new colleges, and gives her the power of appointing the professors until the end of the year 1848, and afterwards leaves the appointment to be provided for by parliament, or vests it in her Majesty, her heirs and successors, in default of any provision to the contrary.

MR WYSE objected to the latter part of this clause, and moved that it be left out of the bill. He proposed instead of it that words should be substituted to this effect—that on any future vacancy occurring in the professorships, such vacancy should be filled up by such candidates as, after due public examination before competent examiners, should be declared by them (being otherwise qualified by character and conduct) to be the most competent to discharge the duties of such professorships.

MR S. O'BRIEN and MR O'CONNELL wished Mr Wyse to withdraw his amendment, and bring it up as a distinct clause; otherwise he would prevent them from negating this clause altogether.

SIR R. PEEL hoped that Mr Wyse would not agree to this suggestion, but would allow his amendment to be discussed at once. He then proceeded to show that the amendment of Mr Wyse was at present premature—that the government had conceded as much as it could fairly be asked to concede at present, and that it would be injurious to the new colleges to take away from the students the hope of succeeding to the professorships, as they became vacant, by throwing them open to the competition of the whole world.

Considerable discussion followed; but the committee at last divided, and the amendment was negatived by 141 over 47.

SIR H. W. BARRON then moved that the following proviso be added to the clause:—"Provided always, that previous to the first appointment of any rector, president, head of college, or professor under this act, the Board of Education in Ireland shall have power to present three names to the lord-lieutenant of Ireland, who must select one of the said persons to fill such office." If the government acceded to this proviso it would take away all religious and political bias from these appointments, and would destroy the objections urged against this bill on the score of ministerial patronage.

SIR J. GRAHAM observed that, if he were merely seeking the convenience of the government, he would willingly deprive it of this patronage; but as the committee had decided that the responsibility of

these appointments ought to rest on the government, he must resist the amendment of Sir H. Barron. He objected also to vesting this patronage in the parties on whom Sir H. Barron had cast the duty of dispensing it. It would diminish the efficiency of the Board of Education, and destroy the harmony with which it had hitherto acted in concert with the government.

After a short discussion, the amendment was negatived.

MR O'CONNELL then moved that the clause be struck out of the bill.

On this question the committee divided; but the amendment was negatived by 129 over 24 voices. The clause was then agreed to, as were also clauses 11, 12, and 13.

The CHAIRMAN then reported progress, and asked leave to sit again to-morrow.

MISCELLANEOUS.

THE BROAD AND NARROW GAUGE.—On Wednesday, MR COBDEN moved the following resolution, which, after some remarks, mostly of concurrence, from several members, was affirmed:—

"That, it having been represented to this house by petitions from various public bodies, as well as from merchants, manufacturers, and others, that serious impediments to the internal traffic of the country are likely to arise from the 'breaks' that will occur in railway communications from the want of a uniform gauge; and these representations not having been fully inquired into by any committee of this house upon private bills, and it being desirable that the subject should be further investigated, an humble address be presented to her Majesty praying her Majesty to be graciously pleased to issue a commission to inquire whether, in future private acts for the construction of railways, provision ought to be made for securing a uniform gauge, and whether it would be expedient and practicable to take measures to bring the railways already constructed or in progress of construction in Great Britain into uniformity of gauge; and to inquire whether any other mode of obviating or mitigating the apprehended evil could be adopted; and to report the same to this house."

DOG-STEALING BILL.—On the motion for going into committee on this bill MR D. DUNDAS opposed the measure on the ground that it was unnecessary, and, if necessary, too severe. It was monstrous to give two justices power to punish a second conviction for dog-stealing with transportation for seven years, especially when that conviction was made without the intervention of a jury. SIR J. GRAHAM considered that the penalty of transportation for seven years for a second conviction for dog-stealing was too severe, and therefore recommended Mr Liddell not to persevere in the clause which imposed it. MR LIDDELL was prepared to take the friendly advice of Sir J. Graham. He did not consider the clause to which objection had been raised to be necessary to the success of his bill, and he was, therefore, prepared to abandon it. The House then went into committee. Several amendments were made in the bill. The House then resumed, and the report was ordered to be brought up this evening.

THE SMOKE PROHIBITION BILL passed through committee on Wednesday; the select committee having reported that the bill could safely be carried out, if its provisions were limited to stationary engines.

ALLEGED OFFICIAL MISCONDUCT.—On Thursday MR HAWES presented a petition from the South-eastern Railway company, complaining that undue influence had been used by the Solicitor of the Board of Ordnance, in favour of the London, Chatham, and North Kent railway. MR HAWES read a letter from the Solicitor of the Board of Ordnance to the Secretary of the railway company in question, suggesting that shares should be allowed to Captain Boldero, Mr Bonham, and himself, and offering other suggestions respecting the bill in committee. The petitioners prayed the removal of the individual from the board. On Friday evening, MR HAWES moved that the petition be referred to a select committee. The motion was seconded by Captain BOLDERO, who hoped that the inquiry would be of the most searching kind. Agreed to.

FLOGGING IN THE ARMY.—On Thursday Dr BOWRING presented the following petition, signed by 3,185 persons, inhabitants of Liverpool, against the punishment of flogging in the army. The petition originated with a lady, who was the daughter of the late Mr Roscoe, and who had personally procured the whole of the signatures:—

To the Honourable the Commons of Great Britain and Ireland, in Parliament assembled,
The humble petition of the undersigned clergymen, magistrates, merchants, and other inhabitants of Liverpool,

Sheweth—That we consider the shocking and most inhuman custom of military flogging highly injurious to the best interests of society, and contrary to both the religious and moral feelings of the cultivated portion of the public, and beseech you to abolish it.

We consider it an evil which tends greatly to corrupt and brutalise the lower classes, being a spectacle of great cruelty and degradation of human nature.

We consider it directly opposed to the pure and merciful laws of Christianity, and to the commandments of God, who has enjoined kindness and forgiveness upon all his creatures.

We consider it contrary to the rights and liberties of English subjects, and opposed to the spirit of the English constitution.

We consider it inimical to the discipline, and degrading to the character, of the army, as a relic of a barbarous age, and placing us on a level with savage nations.

We consider it a great injustice that any person in this realm should be placed in the hands of unlimited and irresponsible power, and that slight failings should be punished by such a horrible infliction of torture.

We consider it exceedingly dangerous to both health and life, and where the victim survives, as laying the foundation of dreadful sufferings and lingering diseases.

We consider the instances of France, America, and

Prussia (the King of which latter country has very recently abolished it) as proofs of the possibility and advantage of putting an end to this guilty practice, being brave and highly disciplined armies.

We consider the moral effect of this punishment as highly injurious to the character of the officers who inflict it.

We consider it also extremely brutalising and degrading to the unfortunate men employed in the execution of so horrible a torture, and likely to make them ferocious and cruel.

And, lastly, we consider it a species of legal murder, and a great outrage to public feeling.

And your petitioners shall ever pray, &c.

Mr HUME said he should shortly call attention to the subject.

A NEW WRIT was on Friday ordered for the borough of Dartmouth, in place of Mr Somes, deceased.

IRISH MEASURES.—In reply to Mr Smith O'Brien, Sir JAMES GRAHAM stated, that a bill founded on several of the recommendations of the Irish Tenure of Land commissioners was under the consideration of the government. It was already in an advanced stage of preparation, and he had every reason to believe it would be introduced into the other house of parliament in the course of next week.

PRIVILEGE.—Sir VALENTINE BLAKE, in reference to the case of privilege, which, on Thursday evening, occupied the cares of the House, put the following most pertinent question to the Solicitor-general:—"The question I have to ask the honourable and learned gentleman is this: Supposing an honourable gentleman is sued to execution for a debt, and supposing he is arrested, what is the proper course then to be taken?" The SOLICITOR-GENERAL, with amusing gravity, briefly replied:—"In answer to the question put to me by the honourable baronet, I think the proper course would be to take a legal opinion."

RAILWAY BILLS.—The select committee appointed to inquire into the state and progress of several railway bills now before parliament, have agreed to the following resolutions:—

That in order to prevent expense and delay in the progress through parliament, in the next session, of such railway bills as it may be found impossible to pass into laws, from want of time for their proper investigation, during the present session, it is desirable that a bill should be passed to prevent the proceedings on such bills being discontinued by a prorogation of parliament.

That this privilege shall be extended to such bills only as shall have been reported to the House, and ordered to be engrossed.

NEW WRIT.—A new writ was ordered on Monday, on the motion of Sir G. CLERK, for the borough of Abingdon, for the election of a burgess in the room of Sir F. Thesiger, who had accepted the office of attorney-general.

HOUSE OF LORDS.

Thursday, June 26th.

The order of the day being read, desiring the attendance of Lord Gardner, to explain the cause of his absence from the Glasgow bridge committee, the noble Lord rose and stated his non-attendance was from misapprehension of their lordships' regulations—in which case the House proceeded no further. In the course of a rambling discussion it was mentioned that many peers were absent almost the whole session. Lord GARDNER then gave notice of a motion to the effect that the lords spiritual, as well as temporal, be summoned and compelled to attend the House, beginning with those of the highest rank, and so continuing until the whole of their lordships had served.

IRISH LANDLORD AND TENANT BILL.—Lord STANLEY moved the following as the committee on the bill:—

The Lord President, the Lord Privy Seal, the Duke of Cleveland, the Marquis of Salisbury, the Marquis of Londonderry, the Marquis of Normanby, the Marquis of Hertford, the Marquis of Lansdowne, the Marquis of Clanricarde, the Earl of Devon, the Earl Fitzwilliam, the Earl Portescue, the Earl of Chichester, the Earl St Germans, the Earl of Roden, the Earl of Rosse, the Earl of Wicklow, Lord Montague, Lord Ponsonby, Lord Ashburton, and Lord Stanley.

This gave rise to rather a sharp debate. The Marquis of CLANRICARDE, as a thorough opposer of the bill, objected to serve on the committee; and the Marquis of NORMANBY entertained a similar scruple. The Earl of LUCAN objected to the proposed committee that it was not impartial, containing sixteen supporters to five opponents of the bill. This Lord STANLEY denied. The result of the contest was, that the Earl of Charleville was substituted for the Marquis of Clanricarde; and then the motion was affirmed.

Earl PORTMAN moved the second reading of the English Landlord and Tenant bill, which was opposed by Lord BEAUMONT, and after some discussion was negatived on a division by a majority of 11 to 7.

The remaining business was then disposed of, and the House adjourned.

Friday, June 27th.

Lord BROUGHAM presented a petition to which he wished to call the attention of his noble friend on the woolsack, from John W. Coldicott, a prisoner in Castle Roushen, Isle of Man, complaining of certain proceedings which had been adopted towards him, and of his being detained in prison. The Lord CHANCELLOR stated, that in consequence of the debate which had been entered into in the other House upon this subject, inquiries had been instituted, both by himself and by the Secretary of State for the Home Department, and he was perfectly satisfied that the proceedings were in complete accordance with the law of the island, whether the law was good or bad. If the law were bad, it ought to be altered, which could only be done by application

to the House of Keys, the legislative assembly of the island. Lord CAMPBELL said that, if the House of Keys were the legislative assembly, still there could be no doubt that the imperial legislature had the power to pass a law for the government of the island; and if the "proceedings complained of had been in accordance with the law, certainly the sooner it was altered the better.

Lord ABERDEEN announced, in reply to a petition from some London and Liverpool merchants, praying for a free navigation of the river Plate, that the government was engaged with that of France in endeavouring to restore peace.

Lord COTTENHAM having moved that the report of the committee on the Ecclesiastical Courts bill be received, the Bishops of LONDON and SALISBURY complained that a lay lord should have a measure in his hands which so affected the church. The Bishop of LONDON actually protested that the whig government would not have acted such a part towards the church as the conservative government had done. Lord COTTENHAM, by whom the bill had been introduced, entered into some explanation of his motives in bringing it forward, and the report was then agreed to. After some discussion of a desultory nature, respecting the bills then on their lordships' table, the House adjourned.

Monday, June 30th.

ROYAL COMMISSION.

The almost unprecedented number of eighty bills received, by commission, the royal assent. Among them were the following:—

Public Officers' Qualification Indemnity bill, the Military Savings' Banks bill, the Privy Council Administration of Justice bill, the Maynooth College Better Government bill, an act to Regulate the Labour of Children and Women in Print Works, an act to Empower Canal Companies to vary their Tolls, the Scotland Fisheries bill, the Scotch Heritable Securities bill, an act to amend the Laws enabling Justices of the Peace to borrow money on mortgage of the county-rates in Middlesex, the Crediton Small Debts bill, the Battersea Poor-rates bill, Clerkenwell Improvement bill, Chester Improvement bill, the Cloughton-cum-Grange St Andrew's Church bill, the Cloughton-cum-Grange St John the Baptist Church bill, the Cromer Sea Walls Improvement bill, the Chester and Holyhead Railway bill, the York and North Midland Railway (York and Scarborough Branch) bill, the Manchester, Bury, Blackburn, and Burnley Railway bill, the Leeds, Dewsbury, and Huddersfield Railway bill, the Dunstable Railway bill, the Leeds and Bradford (Shipley to Colne Branch) Railway bill, the Huddersfield and Sheffield Junction Railway bill, the Berks and Hants Railway bill, the York and North Yorkshire Railway bill, the York and North Yorkshire Railway Consolidation bill, the Shrewsbury, Oswestry, and Chester Railway bill, the Bedford Railway bill, the Blackburn, Darwen, and Bolton Railway bill, the Monkland and Kirkintilloch Railway bill, the Newcastle-upon-Tyne and Tynemouth Railway bill, the Ely and Huntingdon Railway bill, the Midland Railway Company's Extension to Nottingham and Lincoln bill, the Great Grimaby and Sheffield Junction Railway bill, the Hull and Selby Railway (Bridlington Branch) bill, the Kendal and Windermere Railway bill, the Brighton, Lewes, and Hastings Railway Company (Keymer Branch) bill, the Wilts, Somerset, and Weymouth Railway bill, the Manchester and Leeds Railway (Burnley and Oldham Branch) bill, the Lynn and Ely Railway, the Midland Railway Company (Syston and Peterborough Branch) bill, the Glasgow, Garnkirk, and Coatbridge Railway bill, the Whitby and Pickering Railway bill, the York and North Midland Railway (Bridlington branch) bill, the Newcastle-upon-Tyne Port bill, Boddam Harbour bill, the Southampton Docks bill, the Birkenhead Docks bill, the Wexford Castlehill Docks bill, the Hungerford and Lambeth Suspension Bridge Improvement bill, the Clifton Bridge bill, Stoke-upon-Trent Market bill, Glasgow Market bill, the Pudsey Gas bill, the Devonport Gas bill, the Plymouth Gas bill, the Paisley Gas bill, the Birmingham and Staffordshire Gas bill, the Taunton Gas bill, the Scarborough Water Works bill, the Southwark and Vauxhall Water Works bill, the Huddersfield Water Works bill, the Nottingham Water Works bill, the Newcastle-upon-Tyne Water Works bill, an Act to enable the Shaws Water Joint-stock Company to increase the supply of water, an Act to carry into effect an arrangement between the Corporation of the Royal Naval School and the Committee for managing the Patriotic Fund, the Newcastle Coal Furn bill, the Hemel Hempstead Poor Rates bill, the Standard Life Assurance Company bill, the Edinburgh Life Assurance Company bill, the North British Insurance Company bill, the West of London and Westminster Cemetery Company bill, an Act to enable the Master and Commonalty of Watermen to invest the Endowment Fund of the Free Watermen's Asylum in the purchase of land, the Stokenchurch and New Woodstock Road bill, the Duke of Argyll's Estate bill, Molyneux's Estate bill, Barrington's Estate bill, the Leicester Inclosure bill, the Nottingham Inclosure bill, and the Spad Inclosure bill.

The third reading of the Scotch Banking bill was opposed by the Earl of RADNOR, but, on a division, it was carried by forty-seven to fifteen. The Irish Banking bill was also read a third time, and passed.

The Lord CHANCELLOR moved the third reading of the Charitable Trusts bill. Lord COTTENHAM objected to the bill as giving the commissioners more power than the Lord Chancellor ever possessed. He approved of its object, but entirely disapproved of the greater part of the machinery. The bill was read a third time.

The Marquis of NORMANBY expressed his deep regret that there was no hope of a general sanitary measure during the present session, but he hoped that, next year, the government would adopt some means, by a central commission, or otherwise, to obviate the difficulties which at present obstructed the successful legislation.

Lord CAMPBELL drew the attention of the government to the mode by which certain railway companies were superseding or crushing all competition, by buying up or amalgamating with opposing lines—a course detrimental to the interests of the public. The Earl of DALHOUSIE admitted that there might be attempts of this nature, but considered that the law

was quite sufficient to reach all collusive proceedings in such cases.

Various bills were carried forward different stages, and the House adjourned early.

IRELAND.

THE JULY ANNIVERSARIES.—Notwithstanding the sensible and timely advice of Lord Farnham, Colonel Verner, and others, backed by all the respectable journals in the conservative interest, a number of the Protestants of the north seem resolved upon playing the enemy's game, by marching in procession and otherwise celebrating the ensuing anniversary of the battle of the Boyne. In one of the Belfast papers of Saturday, there appears a notice of a meeting, convened by circular and held at Lisburn on Monday last, which was attended by upwards of 300 masters of Orange lodges, who unanimously adopted resolutions inviting "the loyal Orange brethren of Lisburn and surrounding districts to meet in Lisburn on the forthcoming anniversary of the Boyne, to celebrate one of the most glorious events in the history of our country." The grand masters of the Orange lodges of Cavan have passed resolutions deprecating all public processions on the occasion.

THE CATHOLIC BISHOPS AND THE MAYNOOTH BILL.

—On Thursday, the prelates assembled at Maynooth devoted their attention to the New Colleges bill, and the modifications proposed by the government. The result of their deliberations is given in the following extract from the Maynooth correspondence of the *Dublin Freeman*:—"I am now able to state, upon the highest possible authority, that the prelates have declared that their opinions respecting the Education bill remain unchanged, and that they adhere to their memorial and the accompanying resolution agreed to unanimously at their previous meeting. The expediency of following up the former declaration against the bill, by adopting a petition to the legislature, was maturely considered; but, after considerable discussion, the prelates decided upon an adjournment without having determined upon its adoption. Upon this question their lordships were influenced by the conviction that it would not be consistent with their dignity and self-respect to petition the legislature against the bill, as it would only expose them to a reiteration of insult and contempt from a foreign legislature, such as they had already experienced at the hands of a foreign government."

"It is evident," says the *Evening Mail*, "the Synod and the Cabinet have come to terms of mutual good understanding, and that their lordships have consented to eat their pudding and hold their tongue."

DINNERS TO MR O'CONNELL.—The dinner to Mr O'Connell in Galway, has been fixed for the 28th of July next. The Wexford repeal demonstration will take place about the same time.

THE DUKE OF WELLINGTON.—At the meeting of the Kilrush Board of Guardians, on Saturday, a very curious correspondence was read by Dr Foley, who had forwarded a petition, unanimously adopted by the board, praying the enactment of a landlord and tenant law, to the Duke of Wellington and Sir Robert Peel for presentation to Parliament. The following replies were received by Dr Foley:—

"London, June 17, 1845.

"F. M. the Duke of Wellington presents his compliments to Doctor Foley. It is the common practice in both houses of Parliament for members to comment and observe upon petitions presented to each House, upon the mode in which the petition under discussion originated, upon the signatures to it, its contents; whether or not expressing the real opinions of those from whom it is represented as proceeding. It is impossible for the member who presents a petition to answer such observations with satisfaction to the House, with credit to himself, or with advantage to the petitioners, unless he should have some relation with the place from which the petition comes, and some knowledge of the petitioners.

"The Duke has no relation whatever with Kilrush.

"He declines, therefore, to present to the House of Lords the petition referred to.

"Dr Foley, Kilrush."

"Whitehall, June 17, 1845.

"Sir—I am desired by Sir Robert Peel to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 14th instant, and to acquaint you that he will present to the House of Commons the petition to which it refers. I am, sir, your obedient servant,

G. ARBUTHNOT."

THE GREAT BRITAIN STEAM-SHIP arrived at Kingstown Harbour on Sunday week. It is supposed that no fewer than 25,000 persons went from Dublin on that day to gaze at the leviathan. Working only one pair of engines, with a stiff breeze right ahead, she made five and a half to eight knots an hour. On their arrival at Kingstown the passengers handed a letter to Captain Hosken, explaining the cause of the delay, and expressing their perfect confidence in the seaworthiness of the vessel, which, they add, is in every way equal to the highest eulogiums that have been lavished upon her.

FRIGHTFUL STATE OF CAVAN.—Great excitement prevails in Cavan, the county where the Protestant magistrate Mr Booth was murdered the other day. It is feared that unless the executive, or perhaps the legislature itself, promptly decide upon the adoption of some stringent measure of coercion, a hostile collision between the enraged Protestant and Roman Catholic population cannot be long deferred. The remains of the murdered gentleman were interred, on Tuesday, under an escort of nearly 3,000 Protestants, armed in self-defence. On being questioned why they carried their arms, they stated that, determined on attending the funeral, they brought their arms, first, because they could not be safe at their houses in their absence, but chiefly that they did not consider their lives safe in passing through the country without them. It is said that the murderer was seen making off by numbers of

people, yet no one attempted to interfere with him. A peaceable Protestant, of the name of Abbot, was murdered near Arvagh, about three weeks ago. It was found out a few days after that he was murdered by mistake! He was not the person intended for assassination! The Protestants of the country are under the impression, whether justly conceived or not, that the government has abandoned them; and that, unless they unite for their own protection, they will be cut off either in detail or *en masse*, by the ascendancy party. A writer, speaking of the murdered gentleman, says:—"No provocation on his part to the commission of so daring an assassination can be conjectured, save that he was a magistrate and a Protestant gentleman, eminent for his loyalty and love of truth and justice. There was no agrarian offence alleged by the midnight legislators against him; he was, however, in his magisterial capacity, a decided enemy to Ribbonism. It is said that, during the funeral, a large collection of guns, pistols, pikes, and every other species of offensive weapon were collected in the Roman Catholic chapel of Ballynanaught, or Ballynagh, 'to be kept till called for.' The parish-priest had removed to another parish, where there was a police-station, fearing for his own personal safety. Letters from Cavan state that the town of Killeshandra was, from Tuesday night at 8 o'clock up to 4 o'clock on Wednesday morning, in the undisputed possession of 500 Ribbonmen, armed with guns, pitchforks, scythes set straight, and every other imaginable species of offensive weapon. The precise object of this formidable demonstration is unknown, but the inhabitants were throughout the night kept in momentary expectation of a general assault upon their houses. It would seem, however, that the display was merely for the purpose of exciting alarm by the order and discipline of the Ribbon troops, who were marshalled under leaders, and obeying the words of command, 'right about,' 'march,' 'halt,' &c.

DREADFUL MURDER.—James Breene, a rich farmer, of Ballinacally, in Clare, has murdered his wife, while drunk. He had been a teetotaler, and, on his coming home, at night, intoxicated, the woman reproved him. In his passion, he knocked her down with a chair, and kicked her till she died. In the morning, he voluntarily accused himself of the crime, and gave himself up to justice. Another account says, that the woman was butchered with a pair of tongs; that Breene behaved with a methodical coolness, after committing the crime, which appeared like insanity, and that he is suspected of having murdered a former wife, though the affair was hushed up at the time.

SCOTLAND.

ELECTION FOR THE COUNTY OF EDINBURGH.—On Wednesday, Sir John Hope, Bart, of Craighall, was elected a parliamentary representative, in the room of Mr W. R. Ramsay, who has accepted the Chiltern hundreds. There was no other candidate. In the proceedings of the day, Mr Marshall, from East Linton, put the following questions to Sir John:—"Will you, or will you not, support free trade?" "Do you, or do you not, approve of the grant to the Catholic college of Maynooth?" "Are you, or are you not, a friend to exclusive legislation?" Receiving no reply to any of these questions, Mr Marshall turned round to the crowd and asked—"Is such a man as that a fit and proper representative for this county?" [loud cries of "No, no."] A more bitter satire on the representative system could not be devised than this Mid-Lothian election.

REPRESENTATION OF ROSS AND CROMARTY.—It is rumoured that the present member for Cromarty is about to retire, to make way for an honourable baronet of his own name, with whom it is supposed that there has long been an understanding to this effect, similar to that which existed between Mr Ramsay, the late member for the county of Edinburgh, and Sir John Hope, to make way for whom Mr Ramsay has just retired. The *Sun* says that this arrangement will not be suffered to be made unopposed, but that a gentleman, who, it is confidently believed, will be most acceptable to the great majority of the county—whether electors or non-electors—will solicit the honour of the electors' support.

PROTECTION OF THE POOR.—A public meeting was held at Dr Willis's church, in Renfield street, Glasgow, on Monday week, of those friendly to the objects of the "Scottish Association for Protection to the Poor," to receive information regarding the state of the poor in various districts, and the ejection of numbers of small tenants in the Highlands. The meeting was numerous and respectfully attended; several statements of extreme destitution, ludicrously inadequate relief, and harsh treatment, were made; and resolutions approving of the objects of the Society, and pledging the meeting to its support, and adopting a petition to parliament, craving delay, that the proposed bill regarding the poor law may be fully considered, passed unanimously.

THE DUKE OF SUTHERLAND.—The visit of the *Times* "commissioner" to the north has not been without effect on one landlord at least. The *John o' Groat Journal* says—"We understand, that since his arrival in Sutherlandshire, his Grace the Duke of Sutherland has been making personal inquiries into the condition of the poor on his estates, and is at present in course of visiting them."

REMEDY FOR HYDROPHOBIA.—The *Glasgow Argus* mentions a remedy for the bite of rabid animals, applied by Dr David Burnes, (brother of the traveler Sir Alexander), in the case of two ladies in that city. They were in the parlour of an hotel, when a large dog entered, bit them both severely, and ran off. Dr Burnes was in the hotel, having been on a tour in the Highlands with Lord and Lady Panmure. "Dr Burnes, on learning the nature of

the accident, instantly cauterized, cupped, and excised the wounds; and had also recourse to the singular method of making the patients suck their wounds. This course the Doctor recommended ten years ago in the *Lancet*; and he says that no danger whatever is to be feared from it, if the mouth and lips are free from sores or chaps."

RAILWAY DANGERS.—A LADY'S CLOTHES BURNED.—On Saturday last, as the half-past five train of the Glasgow, Paisley, and Greenock Railway was proceeding from Greenock to Glasgow, the dress of a lady passenger in the third-class caught fire from a spark out of the funnel, and it was only by the greatest exertion, accompanied with danger to all the passengers in the same carriage, that the flames were extinguished. No sooner had this been fortunately accomplished, than a cinder from the funnel fell on the floor, and fired the wood partially into a flame. Surely the recurrence of such frightful accidents should be prevented.

THE INDEPENDENT ORDER OF ODD FELLOWS of the Greenock district have unanimously resolved to set on foot a subscription for a national testimonial to their late worthy member, Mr Wallace, of Kelly, as an expression of gratitude to him for his persevering and successful exertions to carry into operation Mr Rowland Hill's system of Penny Postage.

EVERYBODY'S COLUMN.

What moral lesson does a weathercock teach? It is *vane* to a spire.

THE FOSSIL REMAINS OF A SAURIAN MONSTER, 104 feet long, have been found near Mobile, U. S.

No fewer than 130 dogs were destroyed by the Leeds police force, under orders from the Mayor, during last week.

The factory girls at Lowell, United States, have deposited 708,692 dollars in the savings' bank of that city, averaging, for 4,097 depositors, about 1,230 dollars each.

The *Carlisle Patriot* mentions the discovery of a human body in Scoleby Moss, embedded in the lowest stratum of black peat. It was wrapped in a deer skin, and is supposed to have been that of an ancient Briton, buried centuries ago.

A BULL.—The meetings of a provincial club in Ireland are thus announced:—"Notice is hereby given that the quarterly meetings of this society will, in future, be held every six weeks, and not every two months, as formerly."

BREVITY.—That writer does most, who gives his reader the most knowledge, and takes from him the least time. In literature, as in finances, much paper and much poverty may co-exist.—*Lacon*.

Mr Horner, factory inspector for Lancashire, part of Yorkshire, and part of Wales, reports that, in his district, there are now 243 cotton, silk, and other mills in work, more than there were a year and a half ago.

A THIRD-CLASS BULL.—"Which class, sir?" inquired the money-taker at the Blackwall railway, of a rather corpulent gentleman. "Not the one with the standing seats," said the fat man.

WEST INDIA PINE APPLES.—Last week, there was a sale of two thousand of this fruit, in Pudding lane, which had been brought over by the Trent steamer from Nassau, in the Bahamas. They sold from 2s. to 5s. each.

A new system of electric telegraph, by which the despatch is written with a pen by the mere action of the fluid, was tried at Brussels, in presence of the Minister of Public Works, on Monday last. The experiment is stated to have been entirely successful.

M. Merle D'Aubigné, of Geneva, the author of that popular and invaluable work, the "History of the Reformation," is to be entertained, this week, at Liverpool, both by the evangelical church party and by the Dissenters.

A French chemist strongly deprecates the use of saltpetre in curing meat, and recommends sugar as more wholesome and equally efficacious. He attributes scurvy, ulcers, and other diseases to which mariners and other persons living on cured provisions are subject, entirely to the chemical changes produced by saltpetre.

PROPOSED EXHIBITION OF THE PRODUCTS OF BRITISH INDUSTRY.—We are glad to find that a national exhibition of the above kind is proposed by the Society of Arts to the manufacturers, engineers, artists, handicraftsmen, &c. of the kingdom, to be held in London next spring.

UNIVERSALITY OF DISCONTENT.—A gentleman had a board put on a part of his land, on which was written, "I will give this field to any one who is really contented;" and when an applicant came, he said, "Are you contented?" The general reply was, "I am." "Then," rejoined the gentleman, "what do you want with my field?"

A LONG LETTER.—An American paper states that the Emperor of China has written a letter six feet long, and three feet wide, to the President of the United States. It is filled with expressions of love and esteem. The document was enclosed in a silk case, which was again inserted in a wooden box.

Since the "battle of the gauges," it is surprising the number of free tickets honourable members of the House of Commons have obtained, to view the lines of the contending parties. For months to come (says a railway journal) many of them will be able to travel from Dan to Beersheba. One very great man of the sister island was last week offered a free pass over the Great Western lines, (merely of course for the honour of seeing him upon it,) who naively replied, "You are too late: I have six passes" (over six lines) "already in my pocket, on the other side of the question."

PATRIOTISM.—When any natural propensity is consecrated into a virtue, the greatest evils ensue. Patriotism is an instance of this. We are naturally

led to give undue importance to ourselves—this, when the individual is clearly the object of his own feeling, is called *selfishness*. But when, under the name of patriotism, each individual indulges himself in vanity, in pride, in ambition, in cruelty—and yet does it as an *Englishman*, as a *Frenchman*, as a *Spaniard*—all these vices are reckoned virtues.—*J. Blanco White*.

But!—"Sir Walter Scott says—I hate But; I know no form of expression in which he can appear that is amiable, excepting as a butt of sack. But is to me a more detestable combination of letters than No itself. No is a surly, honest fellow, speaks his mind rough and round at once; But is a sneaking, evasive, half-bred, exception sort of conjunction, which comes to pull away the cup just when it is at your lips, as Shakspeare says—

"It does ally
The good precedent; lie upon 'but yet!'
'But yet' is as a jailer, to bring forth
Some monstrous malefactor!"

Religious Intelligence.

GENERAL BAPTIST ASSOCIATION.—The seventy-sixth annual meeting of the ministers and representative of churches composing this association was held at the Friar-lane chapel, Leicester, on Tuesday, June 24th, and three following days. The number of ministers and representatives present was unprecedentedly large, being upwards of 260. Mr Hunter, of Nottingham, was chosen chairman, and Messrs Burns, of London, and Butler, of Heptonstall Slack, moderators. The greater part of the first day was occupied by reading the states of the churches, which, on the whole, did not present so flattering an aspect as those of former years. In the evening there was a discussion as to the propriety of establishing religious benefit societies, in order to prevent the members of our denomination being compelled to join the Odd Fellows and other objectionable societies. It was agreed to refer the matter to a committee for further consideration. Mr Wallis, the president of the General Baptist College, in the course of the day, read a paper, stating that he had given up all connexion with the *Regium Donum*—a statement which was received with the most marked gratification by the numerous parties present, and a resolution was unanimously passed commendatory of the course which he had pursued. A committee was appointed, to consider whether any means could be adopted, to prevent any of the ministers of the connexion from receiving this paltry and degrading pittance. On the Wednesday morning this committee presented their report, which led to a long and spirited discussion. A series of resolutions, which will be found in our advertising columns, were unanimously adopted, except the first, which was strongly opposed by a few parties present, but confirmed by an overwhelming majority. At half-past ten, Mr Burditt, of Long Sutton, preached from "Thou art Peter," &c. In the afternoon the annual missionary meeting was held, J. Hodgson, Esq., of Heptonstall Slack, Yorkshire, in the chair. The report, which was an interesting document, was read by Mr J. G. Pike, of Derby, the secretary, and the meeting effectively addressed by Messrs H. Hunter, of Nottingham; W. Butler, of Heptonstall Slack; J. Burns, of London; T. Yates, of Fleet, &c., &c. A Home Missionary meeting was held in the evening, as also the annual meeting of the Academy committee. On Thursday the report of the Academy committee was read, which led to an interesting discussion as to the possibility of augmenting the funds and efficiency of the institution; and resolutions, recommending this subject to the consideration of the churches, were unanimously adopted. The report of the examiners spoke in high terms of the progress made by the students in their studies during the past year. In the afternoon, a most interesting and animated discussion took place on the subject of capital punishments, and a resolution, condemnatory of taking away human life in any instance, was carried; but, in consideration of the minority being large, the question was considered as deferred. In the evening, Mr Burton, of Portsea, preached from "In the name of the Lord we will set up our banners." On Friday, the annual letter to the churches, on "The Sacraments," by Mr J. G. Pike, was read, and a resolution passed, that a large number should be printed for circulation. In the afternoon, various cases, &c., from churches were disposed of; the only one upon which a short discussion was raised, being a proposition from the church at Borough road, London, suggesting the propriety of altering one of the rules of the association which constitutes ministers members of the association *ex officio*. Owing to the lateness of the time at which this motion was brought on, and the small portion of representatives present, it was determined, by a majority, not to come to any decision, at that time, upon so important a matter. After votes of thanks had been passed to the chairman and moderators, as well as the friends at Friar lane, for their excellent arrangements for the accommodation of representatives and visitors, the interesting services of the week were concluded by singing and prayer by Mr Hunter. A bazaar of useful and fancy articles, for the benefit of the Foreign Mission, was opened in the Exchange rooms, by permission of the mayor, on Wednesday morning, and continued open during the remainder of the week. It was well attended; and it is expected that about £60 will be realised by it for the funds of the mission.—*Leicester Mercury*.

SOUTHMINSTER, ESSEX.—On Tuesday, the 17th ult., Mr C. Winter, late of Homerton college, was ordained to the pastoral charge over the Independent church at Southminster, Essex. Mr J. H. Price, of Woodham Ferris, introduced the service; Mr R. Robinson, of Witham, stated the nature of a

Christian church; Mr E. F. Bodley, of Roehford, asked the questions; Mr R. Burls, of Maldon, offered the ordination prayer, and gave suitable advice to the minister and people; and Mr Garrington, of Burnham, concluded the solemn service with prayer.

CUMBERLAND.—On Thursday, the 12th ult., Mr George Young was set apart to the pastoral office over the Congregational church, Wigton.

EAST LONDON AUXILIARY SUNDAY SCHOOL UNION.—The thirty-first anniversary of this society was celebrated at the Eastern Institution, Commercial road, on the evening of the 24th ult. The chair was taken by Dr Lushington. The various resolutions were moved and supported by Sir Edward Buxton, Dr Reed, Messrs G. Smith, Stovel, Tyler, S. Davis, Katterns, ministers, and H. Althans, Esq. The report announced that considerable improvement had taken place in the affairs of the society, whose operations extend over the most benighted portion of the metropolis. The beautiful room was well filled, chiefly by Sabbath school teachers, notwithstanding the weather was somewhat unfavourable.

NOTTINGHAM AUXILIARY MISSIONARY SOCIETY.—The anniversary services of this society commenced on the 22nd of June, and were continued during the two following days. The Sabbath services were conducted by Messrs J. Sibree, of Coventry, J. T. Jesson, late of Tahiti, and George Mundy, from India. A missionary communion was held in the afternoon at St James's street chapel, which was quite crowded. On the following morning, a very well attended prayer-meeting was held at Castle Gate meeting-house; and on Monday night a powerful sermon was preached by Mr John Ely, of Leeds, at Friar lane chapel, from Isa. lix. 1: "Behold, the Lord's hand is not shortened, that it cannot save; neither is his ear heavy that it cannot hear." A large and highly respectable company assembled to breakfast in the Exchange room, on Tuesday morning. Prayer having been offered by Mr J. Barffitt, of Grantham, Messrs W. Slater, superintendent Wesleyan minister, J. Ely, and J. T. Jesson, delivered impressive and interesting addresses. Mr J. Green, of the Scotch Baptist connexion, concluded with prayer. On Tuesday evening, the annual meeting was held in Castle Gate chapel, when there was an attendance larger than has been witnessed for many years. Richard Morley, Esq., treasurer, presided. Mr E. Leighton, of Marlpool, engaged in prayer; after which the first resolution was moved by Mr Joseph Gilbert, and seconded by Mr George Mundy. Mr J. T. Jesson then moved a resolution expressive of sympathy with the injured Queen of Tahiti. Mr J. was listened to with the deepest interest, whilst he exposed the iniquity of popish and French aggression in Polynesia. Reference was repeatedly made, during the proceedings, to the defalcation in the society's funds. The collection of Tuesday evening amounted, with various special donations, to £174 16s. 4d., making a total for the anniversary of £314 13s. 6d. A portion of this sum was appropriated, by the consent of the meeting, to the benefit of Pomare.

LOUGHBOROUGH.—Mr Charles Stanford, late of Bristol College, having for six months been supplying the Baptist church, meeting at Shanon Hill, Loughborough, has now accepted a cordial and unanimous invitation to take the charge over them, and will, by divine permission, enter on this deeply solemn and responsible engagement on the first Lord's day in July, with prospects altogether favourable for extensive usefulness.

ANOTHER CHAPEL CLEARED OF DEBT.—The church and congregation under the pastoral care of Mr J. Robertson, of Knaresborough, have added another instance of zeal and liberality, by entirely freeing their chapel from debt.

STANDED, ESSEX.—On Wednesday, June the 11th, 1845, Mr David Davies, late of Ilkeston, Derbyshire, was publicly recognised as the pastor of the Independent church assembling in the Old meeting-house, Standed, Essex. The following ministers took part in the services:—Messrs J. W. Richardson, of London; H. Bromley, of Clavering; J. Harrison, of Norwich; Dr Bennett, of London; C. Berry; J. H. Hopkins; W. Thompson; H. Tyler; J. Hanson; T. Finch; G. Gipps; and J. Hodgkins.

BIRTHS.

June 27, at Romsey, Hants, the wife of Mr J. Farmer, Baptist minister, of a son.

June 28, the wife of Mr J. E. Judson, of Lindfield, minister, of a son.

June 29, at Canonbury square, Islington, the wife of Mr Joseph Ford, minister, of a son.

MARRIAGES.

June 18, at Commercial Street chapel, Northampton, by the pastor, Mr E. T. Prust, Samuel, eldest son of Mr Walker, Castle cottage, to ELIZABETH KNIGHT, second daughter of Mr William Higgins, sen., both of the same place.

June 21, at the Independent chapel, Holywell, Flintshire, by Mr D. W. Jones, minister, WILLIAM THOMAS, to ANNE WILLIAMS.

June 23, at the Independent chapel, Grantham, by Mr J. Barlett, minister, Mr W. GLASSBROOK, wharfinger, to Miss SARAH SLATER, both of Grantham.

June 24, at Salem chapel, Ipswich, Mr JOHN GAY, minister of the said chapel, son of Mr John Gay, near Bath, to CHARLOTTE AUGUSTA, fourth daughter of Robert Welch, Esq., commander, of the royal navy, residing in Ipswich.

June 25, by Dr Holloway, CHARLES BURLS, Esq., of Bridge street, Blackfriars, to ELIZABETH, only daughter of the late John Warren, Esq.

June 26, at the Independent chapel, Billericay, by the pastor, Mr E. Dewhurst, Mr J. A. Dix, of London, to SARAH ANN, only daughter of Mr William Rolph, Billericay.

June 26, at Union chapel, Barton Mills, Suffolk, by Mr S. Martin, minister, of Wells, Mr W. A. CREAK, of Burnham Market, Norfolk, to HEPHIZBAH, third daughter of Mr TUBBS, Herringwell hall, Suffolk.

June 28, by license, at Surrey chapel, by the pastor, Mr J. Sherman, G. S. FIDLER, Esq., of Fleet street, to HANNAH, third daughter of T. RIDGAL, Esq., of the Paragon, Brixton.

DEATHS.

June 22, at his residence, at Wickham, Hants, Mr JAMES WOODBRIDGE, aged 62 years.

June 25, at Brighton, in perfect peace, and passive resignation to the Divine will, R. HEATH, Esq., of Stanwell moor, Middlesex.

Trade and Commerce.

LONDON GAZETTE.

Friday, June 27.

The following building is certified as a place duly registered for solemnising marriages, pursuant to an act of 6 and 7 Will. IV., cap. 85:—

Wesley chapel, Nottingham.

BANKRUPTCY ANNULLED.

HERNE, THOMAS, Cardiff, draper.

BANKRUPTS.

CARR, RICHARD, 112, Fore street, Cripplegate, City, cheesemonger, July 10, August 8: solicitor, Mr Gauntlett, Gray's-inn place.

FORRESTER, JAMES, Hampstead, baker, July 8, August 6: solicitors, Messrs Vandermom and Co., Bush lane, Cannon street.

GREENWELL, WILLIAM, 80, Redcross street, Southwark, wheelwright, July 5, August 9: solicitor, Mr Wellborne, Tooley street, Southwark.

LORRAINE, FENWICK, Newcastle-upon-Tyne, bookseller, July 8, August 20: solicitors, Messrs Shield and Harwood, 26, Queen street, Cheapside; and Mr William Chartres, Newcastle-upon-Tyne.

MAY, SAMUEL, and MOTTRAM, PRICE, Shrewsbury, drapers, July 10, August 8: solicitor, Mr Godfrey Goddard, 101, Wood street, Cheapside.

MAY, WILLIAM, Liverpool, draper, July 11, August 15: solicitors, Messrs Reed and Shaw, Friday street, Cheapside; and Messrs Sale and Worthington, Manchester.

PAINE, CHARLOTTE, Lewes, Sussex, plumber, July 11, August 5: solicitors, Mr Sowten, Great James street, Bedford row; and Messrs J. and E. Blaker, Lewes.

THOMAS, EDWARD, Clifton, wine merchant, July 11, August 22: solicitor, Mr J. K. Habberfield, Bristol.

WESTMORE, ROBERT, West Derby, Lancashire, joiner, July 9, August 8: solicitors, Messrs Gregory and Co., Bedford row, London; and Mr R. A. Payne, Liverpool.

DIVIDENDS.

R. Elliot, Sheffield, merchant; first div. of 2s., and second div. of 1s. 0d., any Wednesday—J. Prior and H. Brady, Kingston-upon-Hull, brush manufacturers, first and second div. of 2s. 6d. and 3s. 3d., and 20s. on the joint estate of J. Prior, any Wednesday—H. W. Blackburn, Bradford, Yorkshire, woolstapler, second div. of 2d., any Wednesday—W. East, Spalding, builder, second div. of 1s. 1d., any Thursday—W. E. Jarman, Exeter, confectioner, div. of 2s. 7d., July 1 or any day after—R. Hill, Exeter, currier, div. of 1s. 5d., July 1 or any day after—T. Lane, Hereford, coal merchant, first div. of 2s. 3d., any Thursday—J. Newbold, Nottingham, tailor, first div. of 5s., any Thursday—T. Lakin, Nottingham, builder, first div. of 5s., any Thursday—J. Hawksley, Arnold, Nottinghamshire, merchant, final div. of 1d., any Thursday—B. Jones, Birmingham, victualer, first div. of 8s. 6d., any Thursday—S. Cox, Hendon, and Brunswick street, Blackfriars, horse dealer, second and final div. of 3s. 6d., June 28 and three following Saturdays—W. F. Nicholson, Warrley, Yorkshire, worsted spinner, first div. of 4s., and second and final div. of 1s., any Wednesday—W. Moss, Kingston-upon-Hull, woolen draper, second div. of 6d., any Wednesday—T. Wilkinson, Hartlepool, Durham, draper, first div. of 3s., any Saturday—J. Blake, Sunderland, hardwareman, first div. of 10d., any Saturday—W. Collinson, East Butterwick, Lincolnshire, shipwright, first div. of 1s., any Wednesday.

Tuesday, July 1.

BANKRUPTS.

BENTALL, THORNTON, of Cophall chambers, City, stockbroker, July 9, August 12: solicitors, Messrs Thomas and Co., Cloak lane.

BINDLEY, JOHN, of Atherstone, Warwickshire, hosier, July 10, August 5: solicitors, Mr John Smith, Birmingham; and Mr W. W. Jackson, 2, Field court, Gray's Inn, London.

BROWN, THOMAS, 19, Billiter street, City, manufacturer of gills whelp, July 15, August 6: solicitor, Mr Fawcett, 44, Jewin street, Cripplegate, and Hockley, Essex.

CLARKSON, THOMAS, jun., 10, a Charles street, Middlesex hospital, upholsterer's warehouseman, July 9, August 12: solicitor, Mr Ford, Bloomsbury square.

COLEMAN, WILLIAM, Crediton, Devonshire, victualer, July 8, August 7: solicitors, Messrs Davies and Son, Warwick street, London; Mr Francis, Crediton; and Mr John Stogdon, Exeter.

FLYNN, WILLIAM GEORGE, 84, Lower Thames street, merchant, July 8, August 12: solicitors, Messrs Amory and Co., Throgmorton street.

HAYCOCK, JOSEPH, jun., late of Old Broad street, City, but now of Wells, Norfolk, corn factor, July 8, August 11: solicitors, Messrs Stevens and Co., Queen street, Cheapside.

WAKEFIELD, CHRISTOPHER, late of Hampton Wick, licensed victualler, July 10, August 12: solicitor, Mr William Parnell, 25, New North street, Red Lion square.

WITCHELL, HENRY JAMES, Carnarvon, bookseller, July 15, August 12: solicitors, Messrs Clarke and Cooper, Sessions house, Old Bailey, London; and Messrs Lowndes and Co., Liverpool.

WOLTON, JAMES COUSINS, Halstead, ironmonger, July 8, August 9: solicitors, Mr Gale, Basinghall street, and Mr James Parker, Chelmsford.

SCOTCH SEQUESTERMENTS.

LONNIE, WILLIAM, Glasgow, spirit dealer, July 7, 28.

MOFFATT, ALEXANDER, Barbuic, farmer, July 4, 25.

DIVIDENDS.

G. A. Cator, Leeds, wool merchant, final div. of 1d., any Tuesday—J. C. Johnson, 3, Laurence Pountney hill, Cannon street, merchant, sec. div. of 4d., August 1, or after November 30—J. Hextall, Regent street, draper, first div. of 8d., August 1, or after November 30—W. Bishon, Parkfield, ironmaster, first div. of 6d., and 9-16ths of a penny, any Thursday—J. G. Todman, Gray's Inn lane, licensed victualler, first div. of 14s. 6d., any Saturday—S. Jackson and T. F. Jackson, Bernondsey street, woolstaplers, final div. of 1d., any Saturday—G. Winning, Dover street, Piccadilly, upholsterer, final div. of 4d., any Saturday—G. E. Leefe and J. Yates, Fore street, wholesale haberdasher, final div. of 1s. 6d., any Saturday—J. Peters, Godstone, innkeeper, first div. of 3s., any Saturday—J. Bear, Bamsgate, draper, a div. of 1s., any Saturday—A. Winton and J. Webber, Wood street, Cheapside, warehousemen, first div. of 20s., any Wednesday—A. Winton, D. Winton, and J. Webber, Wood street, Cheapside, warehousemen, final div. of 6d., any Wednesday—W. Harris, now or late of Castle Hayes, Staffordshire, brick maker, third div. of 1s. 11d., any Thursday—W. and J. Losh, Manchester, calico printers, final div. of 2d., any Wednesday—R. Blockley, Market Drayton, Shropshire, linen draper, first div. of 6s. 4d., any Wednesday.

BRITISH FUNDS.

The prices of the public securities are rather lower, and there is very little business transacting.

	Wed.	Thur.	Fri.	Sat.	Mon.	Tues.
3 per cent. Consols	99	99	99	99	99	99
4 per cent. Consols	102	102	102	102	102	102
5 per cent. Consols	111	111	111	111	111	111
Bank Stock	212	211	211	212	212	212
India Stock	280	280	—	—	—	—
Exchequer Bills	57pm	57pm	57pm	57pm	57pm	57pm
India Bonds	70pm	—	71pm	71pm	71pm	71pm

RAILWAY SHARES.

Birmingham and Derby	—	London & Birm. 4 shares	35
Birmingham & Gloucester	134	London and Brighton	74
Blackwall	11	London & Croydon/Trunk	19
Bristol and Exeter	98	London and Greenwich	11
Cheltenham & Gt. Western	—	—	—
Eastern Counties	214	Manchester and Leeds	182
Edinburgh and Glasgow	75	Midland Counties	186
Great Junction	—	Midland New Shares	28
Great North of England	246	Midland and Derby	147
Great Western	206	—	—
Great Eastern	116	South Eastern and Dover	47
Great Eastern	45	South Western	83
London and Birmingham	240	—	—

FOREIGN FUNDS.

Austrian	116	Mexican	37
Belgian	99	Peruvian	31
Brazilian	91	Portuguese 5 per cents	84
Buenos Ayres	42	Ditto converted	67
Columbian	17	Russian	117
Danish	88	Spanish Active	28
Dutch 2 1/2 per cents	63 1/2	Ditto Passive	7
Ditto 4 per cents	99	Ditto Deferred	16 1/2

MARKETS.

MARK LANE, MONDAY, June 30.

The supply of wheat was small, which enabled the factors to realise an advance of 1s. per quarter on all descriptions. There was not much done in free foreign, but several parcels of bonded in granary were taken on speculation.

There was but little business doing in barley, beans, or peas, and the value of each remained about the same as last week.

The show of oats was large, and dealers generally refrained from purchasing: the trade was, consequently, dull, at a decline of 6d. to 1s. per quarter.

	4s.	5s.	6s.	7s.	8s.	9s.	10s.	11s.	12s.
Wheat, Red	40 to 46	46 to 52	52 to 58	58 to 64	64 to 70	70 to 76	76 to 82	82 to 88	88 to 94
White	41 to 47	47 to 53	53 to 59	59 to 65	65 to 71	71 to 77	77 to 83	83 to 89	89 to 95
Barley, per sack	39 to 41	41 to 43	43 to 45	45 to 47	47 to 49	49 to 51	51 to 53	53 to 55	55 to 57
Malting	30 to 33	33 to 35	35 to 37	37 to 39	39 to 41	41 to 43	43 to 45	45 to 47	47 to 49

	4s.	5s.	6s.	7s.	8s.	9s.	10s.	11s.	12s.
Beans, Pigeon	35 to 38	38 to 40	40 to 42	42 to 44	44 to 46	46 to 48	48 to 50	50 to 52	52 to 54
Harrow	33 to 37	37 to 41	41 to 45	45 to 49	49 to 53	53 to 57	57 to 61	61 to 65	65 to 69
Oats, Feed	21 to 23	23 to 25	25 to 27	27 to 29	29 to 31	31 to 33	33 to 35	35 to 37	37 to 39
Peas	33 to 35	35 to 37	37 to 39	39 to 41	41 to 43	43 to 45	45 to 47	47 to 49	49 to 51

	4s.	5s.	6s.	7s.	8s.	9s.	10s.	11s.	12s.
Wheat	47s. 10d.	48s. 0d.	48s. 10d.	49s. 0d.	49s. 10d.	50s. 0d.	50s. 10d.	51s. 0d.	51s. 10d.
Barley	39s. 9d.	39s. 10d.	40s. 0d.	40s. 10d.	41s. 0d.	41s. 10d.	42s. 0d.	42s. 10d.	43s. 0d.
Oats	33s. 7d.	33s. 8d.	34s. 0d.	34s. 10d.	35s. 0d.	35s. 10d.	36s. 0d.	36s. 10d.	37s. 0d.
Peas	38s. 6d.	38s. 7d.	39s. 0d.	39s. 10d.	40s. 0d.	40s. 10d.	41s. 0d.	41s. 10d.	42s. 0d.
Beans	37s. 0d.	37s. 10d.	38s. 0d.	38s. 10d.	39s. 0d.	39s. 10d.	40s. 0d.	40s. 10d.	41s. 0d.

The transactions in the seed trade were unimportant. Canaryseed was in good supply, and rather more business was done at slightly reduced rates.

	per qr.	per cwt.	per bushel.	per ton.
Linseed	52s. to 58s.	45 to 55	—	—
English, sowing	—	—	—	—
Baltic, ditto	—	—	—	—
Ditto, crushing	40 to 45	—	—	—
Me. it. & Odessa	40 to 44	—	—	—
Hempseed, small	35 to 38	—	—	—
Large	—	—	—	—
Canary, new	47 to 48	—	—	—
Extra	51 to 52	—	—	—
Caraway, old	44 to 46	—	—	—
New	48 to 50	—	—	—
Ryegrass, English	—	—	—	—
Scotch	—	—	—	—
Mustard	per bushel	—	—	—
Brown, new	8 to 13	—	—	—
White	12 to 14	—	—	—
Trefoil	17 to 24	—	—	—
Old	—	—	—	—
Tares, new	6s. 6d. to 7s. 6d.	—	—	—

PROVISIONS, LONDON, June 30.

The butter market has recovered from its depression, and the price having advanced 8s. to 10s. per cwt., a fair business was done in Irish. We quote Corks, 80s. to 81s.; Limericks, 77s. to 79s.; Waterfords, 76s. to 81s.; best Dutch, 82s. to 84s., landed. There is still a good demand for bacon, and a further advance in price was realised for mild-cured parcels of sizeable meat. Hams are in active demand, and higher prices have been obtained. Lard still continues dull.

HOPS, BOROUGH, Monday, June 30.

The market is steady, and the business doing is only for present wants.

POTATOES, BOROUGH, Monday, June 30.

The supply during the past week has exceeded the demand, and as great quantities of new potatoes are coming in, the old ones are a mere drug. Prices must be considered nominal.

	60 to 80	80 to 90	90 to 100	100 to 110	110 to 120	120 to 130	130 to 140	140 to 150	150 to 160
York Reds	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Perth do	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Early Devons do	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Cornwall do	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Jersey Blues	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—

BUTCHER'S MEAT, SMITHFIELD, Monday, June 30.

The beef trade was active at prices fully equal to those of Monday last, and a good clearance was effected. Of foreign beasts the number was small, and most of them were of inferior quality, but they were all disposed of at full prices. The supply of sheep was small, and the demand for them very dull, at barely late rates. Lambs, calves, and pigs, were in moderate demand, at last Monday's prices.

	3s. 2d. to 4s. 8d.	4s. 8d. to 5s. 4d.	5s. 4d. to 6s. 0d.	6s. 0d. to 6s. 6d.	6s. 6d. to 7s. 2d.	7s. 2d. to 7s. 8d.	7s. 8d. to 8s. 4d.	8s. 4d. to 9s. 0d.	9s. 0d. to 9s. 6d.
Beef	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Mutton	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—

	Beasts.	Sheep.	Calves.	Pigs.
Friday	950	11,900	449	340
Monday	2,325	23,900	220	258

NEWGATE AND LEADENHALL MARKETS, Monday, June 30.

	Per 8lbs. by the carcass.	Per 10lbs. to 12s. 6d.	Per 12lbs. to 14s. 6d.	Per 14lbs. to 16s. 6d.	Per 16lbs. to 18s. 6d.
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Advertisements.

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BRITISH AND FOREIGN ANTI-SLAVERY SOCIETY.—At a MEETING of the Committee of the British and Foreign Anti-slavery Society, held at 27, New Broad street, on the 21st of February, 1845.

JOSEPH STURGE, Esq., in the Chair.
 It was resolved, That this committee rejoice in the rapidly spreading conviction, that so long as slavery exists, there is no reasonable hope of the annihilation of the slave trade; and that it is felt not only by those who object upon principle to the use of an armed force, but by the public generally, to be impracticable to suppress it by such means.

That a review of the experience of the last twenty-five years renders it obvious that some deeply-adlicting evils have resulted from the application of coercive means for the extinction of the slave trade; among which may be enumerated a dreadful aggravation of the sufferings and horrors of the middle passage, a fearful increase in the rate of mortality on the number of unhappy victims shipped for the slave markets, and, on the part of Great Britain, a lamentable sacrifice of life and the expenditure of an enormous amount of treasure.

That this committee have always been of opinion that the employment of an armed force for the suppression of the nefarious traffic would prove ineffectual; and, this opinion having been confirmed by indubitable facts, would respectfully entreat the British legislature to confine its attention in future to the employment of such means as are of a pacific character in the accomplishment of this great object, and to concentrate all its efforts on the universal abolition of slavery as the most effectual mode of extinguishing the nefarious traffic in human beings.
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REGIUM DONUM.

AT THE SEVENTY-SIXTH ANNUAL ASSOCIATION of the NEW CONNEXION of GENERAL BAPTISTS, held at Friar-lane chapel, Leicester, on Tuesday, June 24th, and three following days, at which were present 263 Ministers and Representatives, a Committee was appointed to inquire into the subject of the *Regium Donum*, and prepare a petition to be presented to parliament thereupon. The following is the Committee's report:—

Your Committee recommend—
 1. That this Association will not, in future, sanction any minister's name being placed on its "Minutes" who may, after this period, commence receiving the *Regium Donum*, or any similar government or parliamentary grant.
 2. Your Committee feel great satisfaction in recording the fact that a considerable portion of the recipients of the above grant in this Connexion have voluntarily expressed their determination to receive it no longer, and your Committee would recommend others to do the same; and your Committee, deeply sympathising with those aged and afflicted ministers whose necessities render pecuniary assistance desirable, recommend that they communicate with the Rev. Hugh Hunter, of Nottingham, chairman of the Association for the present year, that they may be recommended to quarters where such assistance may be obtained.

Your Committee present for your consideration an improved draft of petition to Parliament.

Your Committee recommend that the foregoing resolutions, and the Petition, be advertised in the *Nonconformist* and *Patriot* newspapers.

(Signed) J. NOBLE, Chairman.

Resolved:—
 That the following paper, read by the Rev. J. Wallis, respecting the *Regium Donum*, be printed in the "Minutes;" and that the Association express their great delight and satisfaction in the conclusion to which their respected brother has come:—

"I think it proper to state, that neither have I, nor has any one belonging to me, the least connexion, directly or indirectly, with the parliamentary grant. The last grant has been refused, and a formal notification of my unwillingness to be the medium of distribution has been forwarded to the right quarter. Though I have not so decided a conviction of the evil of this grant as some of my brethren, yet the measures of government, and the progress of events, have led me to judge it to be my duty to act as I have now done."

The following protest, on the part of the minority, was ordered to be printed in conjunction with the resolution:—

"We, the undersigned, though not thinking it desirable for Dissenters to receive the *Regium Donum*, yet conscientiously and decidedly protest against the first resolution adopted by the Association.

(Signed)
 J. G. Pike, E. H. Burton, William Butler, J. Knight, Thomas Yates, jun. W. Wherry,
 J. C. Pike, Richard Kenney, Joseph Wallis, Samuel Wright, John Ward, John Derry."

DRAFT OF PETITION.

To the Honourable the Commons of Great Britain and Ireland, in Parliament assembled,

The humble petition of the undersigned Representatives of the New Connexion of General Baptists, comprising upwards of 300 congregations, and 50,000 individuals, assembled at their Annual Association, at Leicester, on the 24th, 25th, 26th, and 27th days of June, in the year 1845,

Sheweth,
 That it is utterly repugnant to the deliberate and long-cherished convictions of your petitioners for the religion of Jesus Christ, whose "kingdom is not of this world," to receive the patronage, and be under the control of the state; or, that the religion of some should be supported by compulsory payment from others.

That your petitioners are therefore most decidedly opposed to the Parliamentary Grant usually called the *Regium Donum*, and to every similar grant for religious or educational purposes.

That your petitioners have, on previous Annual Assemblies, repeatedly and emphatically disavowed all participation in this and all similar grants.

Your petitioners, therefore, earnestly implore your Honourable House to withhold the said Grants in all time forthcoming. And your petitioners, &c.

(Signed on behalf of the Association)
 HUGH HUNTER, Chairman.
 SAMUEL WIGG, Secretary.

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